

Newport Lutheran Church

Easter Egg Hunt

Wow oh Wow is all I can say about this year's Easter Egg Hunt. We had 154 prizes and filled 7,400 eggs. We had around 300 kids! This was a record breaker! I can not thank all the volunteers that showed up to help. You were all amazing. Also we couldn't do it without the donations from all of you. God is good to us and we had nice weather and most of the snow was melted. We even had someone that blessed us by doing a drone video. Thank you all so much!!!



Bingo Fundraiser



We will be having a **Bingo Fundraiser** for our mission trip to Tanzania. Join us May 18th at 6:00pm for bingo in the fireside room. It will be a dollar a card, bring your bingo dauber, and come hungry because we will be selling grilled hot dogs and brats, pop, water, chips, popcorn, and candy. The games will be a 50/50 win. We will also have a raffle between games for prizes. Please invite your friends and family to join us for this fun event! All the proceeds made will be going to our mission trip.

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). This event is only possible if I have volunteers so please consider helping out. Sign-up is available now! You can email Sara at newportlutheran@comcast.net or stop in the office for the forms or call 651-459-2447.



Children's Circle Information

The last day for Children's Circle is May 19th. We will be having a little party on this Sunday after worship. If you are interested in teaching Children's Circle next year please let Sara in the office know. We would love to have extra teachers or if you have a great idea on how to change it please let Sara in the office know. We will be starting up again in the fall.

Sprucing up the Kitchen

No one has come forward to help paint the church kitchen. If you are interested please contact the church office. The kitchen could also use a deep cleaning if you're interested in helping please contact the church office.

Building Repairs

If you see repairs that are needed around the building please fill out a form across from the church office. Dave Partch has been taking care of a lot of things around the building. If you see something that needs immediate repair please contact the church office or Dave Partch immediately.

Blood Drive Thank You

Thank you to all who were involved with our recent Red Cross Blood drive on Friday, April 12. It was another successful drive, and we collected 35 units of blood, which is over our goal!! The crew was fantastic to work with, and my volunteers who helped me run the drive were very much appreciated. Thank you to all who donated this gift of life. We will be hosting another drive on Friday, July 19, 2024 from 11:00 - 5:00 in our Fire-side room. There will be more info about that later this summer. **I dedicated the April blood drive to Marian Skarsten- she was a loyal volunteer, and worked at almost ALL of the blood drives we have sponsored for over 20 years here at NLC. She will be terribly missed.**
Blessings, Jane Benson



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 May and June is Lutheran World Relief. Founded by Lutherans in the United States at the end of World War II, grounded in Lutheran theology and building on decades of experience, Lutheran World Relief tackles global poverty by helping people adapt to the challenges that threaten their livelihoods and well-being.

We work with people based on need, regardless of race, religion or nationality and we do not evangelize.

We provide aid in emergencies and help families restore their lives. We partner with communities to build and grow rural economies. We break the cycle of poverty, so families and communities can thrive.

Our goal is to help people build self-sufficiency and create new community-owned approaches to problem-solving that will last long after our projects end.

Our Mission

Affirming God's love for all people, we work with Lutherans and partners around the world to end poverty, injustice and human suffering.

Our Vision

A healthy world forever flourishing in dignity and justice.

Our Values

Inclusive: Diversity and differences only make us stronger.

Disruptive: By challenging convention, we innovate and maximize the good we can do in the world.

Interconnected: Complex problems require comprehensive, integrated solutions. Our array of expertise, resources and networks makes possible the impossible.

Widow and widowers will be going to lunch at Outback Steakhouse in Inver Grove Heights on May 23rd at 12:30pm. If you need a ride meet at church at 12:15. 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 May 9th. If you have any questions you can call Jane Benson at 459-6816. This is great time for fellowship and fun.



Pastor's Ponderings

As Sara prepares for the volunteer breakfast, it is amazing how many people step up to volunteer. Most of them work quietly behind the scenes and few are aware what they do. If it wasn't for our volunteers, light bulbs would never get changed, communion supplies would not be stocked, not to mention communion set up and served. The colors for the church year would not change and the banners would not be hung. Cards get sent, the Beacon gets mailed, our yard is mowed, fertilized, and the sticks are picked up. The flowers greet people as they come in with their beauty reminding us of God's creation.

We have groups of people who work together, such as the quilters and ushers. Some work in pairs, like the counters of the weekly offering. Our building is nice and kept in good repair, whether routine maintenance, fixing items that have broken, and painting freshens everything up. Some volunteer to serve in leader positions, such as council. Others sing, play the bells, and read in worship. Then there are those who bring treats on Sunday, serve the community dinners and help with outreach events such as the blood drive, Easter egg hunt, Trunk-or-Treat, Night to Unite and Relay for Life. Others pray for people on the prayer chain – making a difference in so many lives.

Each and every one of you makes a difference in the world and in the life of Newport Lutheran Church. Even if you are only able to come to worship, your presence makes a difference more than you know. A simple greeting can make someone's day.

I know I am leaving off many, many others. I do apologize and I know that I will be saying, "I forgot to mention..." as soon as the newsletter is printed. Forgive me.

Each of you is important no matter what. Each of you make a difference. Every one of you matters to the people of this place and in the world.

If you are unable to volunteer or even get out to church, you make a difference right where you are. You do not need to feel bad. As Ecclesiastes points out, "for everything there is a season."

For those of you who are wondering how you can use your gifts or get involved, come and talk to me. ¹² "There is one body, but it has many parts." (1 Corinthians 12:12). God made all people with differing gifts.

I thank everyone of you for what you do at NLC, in the community, and in the world. You are a blessing!!!

Blessings,

Pastor Sue

Mission Trip to Africa

We are getting closer and closer to our Mission Trip. We leave August 3rd and will be returning August 18th. Please join us May 18th at 6pm for our last fundraiser for our trip. We will have Bingo, Raffle, and Food for purchase. Please invite your friends, family, and neighbors. **In addition we have a beautiful quilt that was donated (retailed around \$1000) to be raffled off for our trip to Africa. We will be selling raffle tickets for \$5 each and will be drawing a name May 19th during coffee hour. Please consider buying a raffle ticket. Tell your family and friends. You can purchase raffle tickets in the Narthex.**

Community Meal

Please consider signing up to host a community meal or just come to help serve. If you know someone that wants to serve but they do not attend our church please let them know they are welcome to help. If you have questions contact the church office.

New Library Book

The In-Between: Unforgettable Encounters During Life's Final Moments **by Hadley Vlahos, RN**

This memoir by a hospice nurse recounts some of her memorable encounters with twelve different people. Each chapter is focused on one particular patient. Hadley writes about getting to know the patient and what she learned from the experience. It is gentle and heartfelt. I had not heard of this book until Sandy McAllister recommended it. I think you will find it informative and helpful to learn more about hospice care and also to reflect on Hadley Vlahos's personal journey.

Thank You

Thank you to all of you for the amazing prayers, love, support, patience, kindness, understanding and donations from Newport Lutheran Church and South Washington County community, friends, family during the past two months since we lost our house in the electrical fire. From February 19th to now our world has changed immensely.

Grateful for the Palm Sunday breakfast/fundraiser, meals, clothing, supplies/comfort items for Kate and household supplies to use at the hotel/rental, prayer shawl, listening, sharing stories, everything people have helped with during this difficult time. We are grateful for everything and everyone. We now are in a rental and hopefully will have a rebuilding plan by the end of next week. We will keep you posted. Sincerely, Lin, Mark and Kate Gisselquist

Financials

February Revenue	\$25,105.50	YTD Revenue	\$51,618.36
February Expenses	<u>20,491.39</u>	YTD Expenses	<u>43,470.96</u>
February Net Income	\$ 4,614.11	YTD Income	\$ 8,147.40

Our February Net Income and YTD income is great. However, it is important to note that several people choose to give their annual giving during these months, especially taking advantage of the tax advantage for choosing to donate the mandatory distribution (RMDs) from IRA's to a charity (QCD).

Next month we will be dividing the amounts of QCDs over the months remaining in the year to give a more accurate view of our income.

With this being said, several people have increased their giving, which is fantastic and appreciated. Our mission is to serve God and because of all of you, we are able to do this. The investment in the church is one of the best investments you can make if want to change lives. THANK YOU!!!



Christian sympathy to the Skarsten family on loss of Marian Skarsten.

Thank you to the funeral ladies for serving at the luncheon for Janet's celebration of life. Coming together in fellowship was always important to Janet. We appreciate you helping enjoy a meal while sharing stories.

CHURCH INFORMATION

President: Josh Grochow, 651-428-0102
mrjoshg1967@gmail.com

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.

May 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
5 9a Worship 10a Coffee Hour 10:15a Children's Circle 10:15a Confirmation Roadside Clean-up 1p Oasis in the Desert 4-6 Girl Scouts	6 Online Worship Available 9a Mah Jongg 6-8p Girl Scouts	7 6p Oasis in the Desert Church 7p Social Concerns 6-8p Girl Scouts	1 Woodcarver's 6-8p Girl Scouts	2 9a Quilters 5-7p OITD Music Practice 6-8 Girl Scouts	3 Office Closed 6p Oasis in the Desert	4 8a A/A 5:30p Worship
12 9a Worship 10a Coffee Hour 10:15a Children's Circle 1p Oasis in the Desert Church 4-6p Girl Scouts	13 Online Worship Available 9a Mah Jongg 1p Women's Bible Study 6-8p Girl Scouts 6p Oasis in the Desert	14 6p Oasis in the Desert Church 6-8p Girl Scouts	8 8a Woodcarvers 6-8p Girl Scouts	9 12p Senior Luncheon at Jerry's 5-7p OITD Music Practice 6-8p Girl Scouts	10 Office Closed 6p Oasis in the Desert	11 8a A/A 5-6p Community Meal 5:30p Worship
19 9a Worship 10a Coffee Hour Last Day Children's Circle 1p Oasis in the Desert 4-6p Girl Scouts 6-8:30p Piano Recital	20 Online Worship Available 9a Mah Jongg 6-8p Girl Scouts	21 6p Oasis in the Desert Church 6-8p Girl Scouts 6p Council Retreat	22 8a Woodcarvers 6-8p Girl Scouts	16 9a Quilters 11-4p Bridge 5-7 OITD Music Practice 6-8p Girl Scouts	17 Office Closed 6p Oasis in the Desert	18 8a A/A 5:30p Worship 6p Bingo Fundraiser, Raffle and Food
26 9a Worship 10:15 Coffee Hour 1p Oasis in the Desert Church 4-6p Girl Scouts	27 Online Worship Available 9a Mah Jongg 6-8p Girl Scouts	28 6p Oasis in the Desert Church 6-8p Girl Scouts	29 8a Woodcarvers 6p-8p Girl Scouts	23 5-7p OITD Music Practice 6-8p Girl Scouts	24 Office Closed 6p Oasis in the Desert	25 8a A/A 5:30p Worship



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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 Emily White for hosting the Community Worker Luncheon. You did such a great job! You worked so hard. Also thank you to those that donated desserts and to Judy Jacobs for helping with serving and cleaning up.

Thank you to Deb Dudley and Sue Kahler for all your work with special music. Your work is greatly appreciated.

Thank you to everyone that helped with the snow removal needed this winter. It was a mild winter but your work when it did snow is greatly appreciated.

THANK YOU ANN AND BOONE OSTERKAMP FOR POWER WASHING THE FRONT OF THE BUILDING. IT LOOKS SO NICE! IT WAS GREATLY APPRECIATED.