



## Given and Shed...for You

Do you remember your first communion? I was dressed in a white gown with a red carnation pinned on the front. Those were the days when confirmation was the requirement for access to the sacrament and it wasn't until we did our three years and our whole class was prayed over by the pastors that they let us taste and see how the Lord is good.

Back then, communion was once a month, on the first Sunday, which was always the best attended by far. I remember thinking that if they ever wanted to increase people's worship habits they should offer communion more often. But then it was a big church and on communion Sundays the little sacristy off the sanctuary was filled with workers, red-faced from steam, as they sterilized the cups to be refilled for the next service. Too much work to do too often I guess.

Times change, thank God, and we've come to appreciate communion as a regular part of every service. Those worries that "it wouldn't be special anymore if we had it too often" didn't really pan out. And now that a worldwide pandemic has kept us from gathering for worship a lot of people are missing how Jesus comes to us in the simple meal, and pastors have been scrambling to figure out how to approach this problem. You don't want to hear about the arguing and theological infighting that's been going on these last weeks among the clergy of the church regarding this issue. Risking an oversimplification, there are three general thoughts about this.

First, there are those who say we should all just wait for communion until we come back together in worship. That "fasting" is a good spiritual practice and that we'll appreciate the sacrament all the more at the end of our fast.

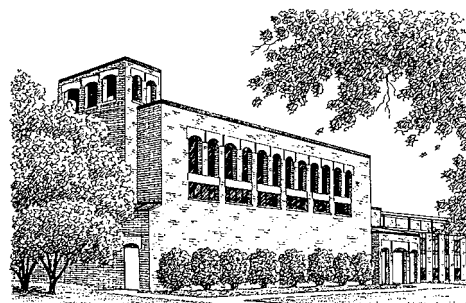
And there are those who think that a "virtual community" is still a community, and the sacrament can happen as a pastor presides via some media form and the people commune in their homes at the same time, as though they were all in the same space.

And, finally, there are those who believe that a household of one or more should be able to celebrate communion on their own during a time of emergency like this. That the sacrament is given to all the people of God and people can be trusted to receive it properly on their own.

After prayerful consideration, the pastors and church council of Oak Grove are recommending the first and third options. It's perfectly fine to wait to have communion for the time being and remember how Jesus still comes to us in the word, and how the presence of God is around us all the time and wherever we are. For those who want that visible sign of Christ's real presence, we're providing a communion liturgy for use in the home with directions and suggestions for its proper use. We expect that people will choose differently and affirm those decisions of conscience. And following our bishop's advice, we recognize that this is a temporary situation for an unusual time. We don't recommend any permanent change until the entire church can address these things together sometime in the future.

Blessings to you all! Stay safe. Be well.

*Pastor Tom Zarth*



Oak Grove Lutheran Church

Richfield, Minnesota

## May 2020

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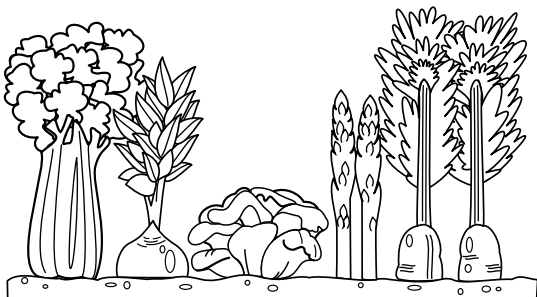
## May Birthdays

- 1 - Gerald Fors, Sarah Till
- 2 - Emma Halverson
- 3 - Mike Hanson, Sharon Ojile, Jeanne Seleen
- 4 - Mark Reinhardt
- 5 - Ben Blomgren
- 6 - Kim Bjostad, Bruce Boyea,  
Rev. Mark Wegener
- 7 - Dan Curry, Doug Johnson, Mallery Mohn
- 9 - Pam Krause, Chris Sunne
- 10 - Margaret Swanson
- 11 - Janet Travers
- 12 - Anna Pagel, Jil White
- 14 - Winifred Nelson, Don Solt
- 16 - Paul Thompson
- 19 - Tiffany Fors, Andrew Memelink
- 21 - Richard Reinhart
- 23 - Benjamin Dimond, Catherine Urbach,  
Maynard Wood
- 24 - Samuel Louris, Lois Lusty
- 25 - Rosalie Bjorkman, Aiden Jones,  
Kevin Larson
- 27 - Harris Morseth
- 28 - Luiza Peterson, Abigail Stok
- 29 - Matthew Meinke
- 30 - Sam Boyea
- 31 - Vicki Engelhard

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### Circle Meetings for May are Cancelled

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## Prayers for a Time of Public Health Concern

God, our peace and our strength, we pray for our nation and our world as we face new uncertainties around coronavirus. Protect the most vulnerable among us, especially all who are currently sick or in isolation. Grant wisdom, patience, and clarity to health care workers, especially as their work caring for others puts them at great risk. Guide us as we consider how best to prepare and respond in our families, congregations, workplaces, and communities. Give us courage to face these days not with fear but with compassion, concern, and acts of service, trusting that you abide with us always; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

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## It's Gardening Time!

Hello all interested gardeners!!

It's time to sign up for this year's plots and start planning your gardens. We know warmer weather will be coming and I'm sure you're as anxious as I am to be out in the sun and warmth!

Everything dealing with our garden will be the same except for these 3 items:

1. Because of the COVID-19 situation we're asking that no more than 2 people be in the garden at one time. People who live in the same house will be exempt and can be in the garden with 1 other person. We ask that you follow the social distancing guidelines as you clean out, plant and water your plots.

2. With minimum church office workers I'm asking that you call or text me, Marilyn Jacobson at 612-385-2520, or email me at [mmjacobson2@msn.com](mailto:mmjacobson2@msn.com) to reserve a plot. First to call, text or email will receive their request until all plots are assigned. We still leave 3 or 4 plots for VEAP. (As of April 20, 11 out of 35 plots have been reserved.)

3. We have less people working in the church office and are asking that NO ONE bring in a check to the office. Anyone interested in a plot can go to our church website and click on the green GIVE ONLINE link. Kristin has updated the choices and you'll see our community garden in the list. If you choose to pay by check please send it, and a reference to the garden, thru the US mail to church at Oak Grove Lutheran, 7045 Lyndale Ave S, Richfield, MN 55423.

Be healthy, be safe and enjoy digging in the dirt!

# A Home Communion Liturgy



## Setting the Table

Prepare a space for Holy Communion. The table where you eat your meals would be a natural consideration. You might use your best dishes. A candle might be lit. At church we use unleavened bread but any bread will do. Pour some wine; red is traditional, but not necessary. Grape juice is an option. Please refrain from using untraditional elements (coffee and cookies, Pop-Tarts and Kool-Aid). If you are alone, remember none of us takes this meal for ourselves, but it is always given to us as God's gift. If there are others with you, serve one another. One person might lead the liturgy, or divide up the parts.

## Invocation

In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

When our congregation has gathered in worship, we have heard again of God's mighty acts and the love shown us in the life, death, and resurrection of our Lord. We have shared in the holy meal of the Lord's supper.

Even though we gather separately for now, we share this same word of life, and this bread and cup of blessing, that we might receive these same gifts and be strengthened in our faith, hope, and love.

## Prayer of Preparation

Merciful God, we do not presume to come to your table trusting in our own righteousness, but in your abundant mercy. Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat and drink the body and blood of your dear Son, Jesus Christ, that we may live in him and he in us, now and forever. Amen.

## Gospel Verse(s)

*One or more verses may be read:*

Jesus said, "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." (*Matthew 11:28*)

Jesus came proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news." (*Mark 1:14*)

When Jesus was at the table with the disciples at Emmaus, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. (*Luke 24:30-31*)

Jesus said, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty." (*John 6:35*)

## Words of Institution

Gathered at the Lord's table, our congregation has remembered with thanksgiving that "in the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

This is the supper of our Lord Jesus Christ. This same bread and cup, shared in our community of faith, are here given for you.

## The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. *Amen.*

## Holy Communion

Take the bread yourself, or share with each person, saying, "The body of Christ, given for you."

Then, with the wine, saying, "The blood of Christ, shed for you."

## Closing

We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Be at peace. Christ is with you. Thanks be to God.

# ABUNDANT LIFE

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The theme for Oak Grove's stewardship campaign a few years ago, "Abundant Life," (John 10:10) provides a different perspective for me in 2020 than it did a few years ago. Both 'abundant' and 'life' can be viewed with new perspectives.

Abundant in my life is fabric and thread, so I answered the call from Lutheran Social Services (LSS) of Minnesota to make fabric face masks. As elastic was not abundant in my sewing supplies, I ordered some from Los Angeles, and it arrived a week later. Inspired by Martin Luther to "Act Boldly," I ordered a large quantity so I could share with the other LSS mask sewers.

LSS set an initial goal of providing 6,000 fabric masks to their staff, volunteers and clients at all their LSS Minnesota locations. Over 1,000 masks were received in the first two weeks. Sewers continue to produce more masks, and can get "In Kind" contribution receipts from LSS. Sewing machines are whirring in Champlin, Mankato, Minneapolis, Hastings, Edina, Inver Grove Heights, Minnetonka, North Oaks, Columbia Heights, Roseville and St. Louis Park. Weekly conference calls coordinate the efforts. LSS works with many populations that still need their services, perhaps even more now: Refugees, seniors, disabled, and youth at risk for homelessness. LSS has several housing units, and residents still need services. Some LSS staff are working longer hours to meet the needs of their clients. LSS Volunteers perform tasks like delivering meals and household supplies to seniors. One of the seniors that receives meal delivery shows her appreciation by sewing masks.

LSS is following the recommendation of the Center for Disease Control (CDC) to wear masks when venturing outside the home to "flatten the curve" and avoid "Community Spread" of COVID19 by people that may be infected but asymptomatic. Fabric masks increase the ability of LSS to support employees, volunteers, and the greater community, and were distributed to LSS locations and volunteers from Luverne to Duluth.

Any Oak Grove members interested in helping to make fabric masks for LSS can contact Nancy Gertner @ 612-396-9186 or Email: [NancyGertner@Mac.Com](mailto:NancyGertner@Mac.Com)

**PRAY, GIVE, DO:** LSS welcomes your prayers, your donations, and your volunteer services. Several volunteer opportunities are posted on the LSS website - [www.lssmn.org/sewmasks](http://www.lssmn.org/sewmasks) - Donations can also be made online. Resources include the LSS Church Partnerships Facebook Page.

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## Lutheran Social Services of Minnesota News

Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota, one of the state's largest social services nonprofits, has a new chief executive officer (CEO).

The St. Paul-based nonprofit, which has a \$162 million annual budget, named Patrick Thueson its new CEO after Gov. Tim Walz appointed his predecessor, Jodi Harpstead, as commissioner of the Department of Human Services last fall.

"It's just an honor," said Thueson, 58, of Stillwater, a University of St. Thomas graduate who got his start working for Coca-Cola in finance, operations and marketing. "We plan to keep innovating; that's our hallmark so far."

Thueson, who's worked for Lutheran Social Service for 13 years, has been the interim CEO since Harpstead's departure and previously worked as the nonprofit's chief operating officer and chief financial officer.

He takes over in the midst of the COVID-19 outbreak, which has prompted the nonprofit, like others, to deliver all services virtually or by minimizing person-to-person contact, such as providing mental health counseling via video or delivering meals to seniors' homes.

Thueson said no services have been suspended or closed because of the pandemic. In fact, demand for services like counseling and food have increased along with the number of Minnesotans in need.

"We've been able to pivot so far," he said.

A photo of Mr. Thueson is available here: <https://www.lssmn.org/news/lutheran-social-service-minnesota-selects-patrick-thueson-new-ceo>

## LSS Benefit For Youth 2020

Lutheran Social Services holds an annual fund-raising event for Youth programs. The 2020 event, scheduled for Tuesday, May 19, will be a virtual event for participants to view from the comfort and safety of their home. Serving the youth population is especially important at this time, as many service sector jobs usually available to young people without college degrees, special skills, or years of work experience have been so heavily impacted by the economic changes resulting from the COVID19 Pandemic.

Register Online to receive your link to the virtual event. Join neighbors helping neighbors across Minnesota for this virtual community gathering on Tuesday, May 19. You'll learn about the challenges young Minnesotans face and how, together, we can map a route to their success. Gifts made during this event support LSS Youth Services.

**WHEN:** Tuesday, May 19 - 11:45 a.m. Virtual Reception 12:00-12:30 p.m. Live Stream

**WHERE:** The 2020 Benefit for Youth will take place online so that guests may safely participate from home during the COVID-19 outbreak. Registered guests will receive an email with a link and instructions for joining the live stream.

Registration is online: <https://events.lssmn.org/page/17283/event/1> - Any questions about the Benefit for Youth can be addressed to the LSS Development Team at 651.969.2309 or [development@lssmn.org](mailto:development@lssmn.org).

LSS staff lead for this event is Emily Stamp: [emily.stamp@lssmn.org](mailto:emily.stamp@lssmn.org).

# Thank you to all who bought flowers for the 2020 Memorial Easter Garden

## Given by

## In Honor or Memory of

Mark and Carolyn Aura  
 Sarah Barrett  
 Lloyd and JoAnn Beggs  
 Theresa Bonneville  
 Bots and Ann Botsford  
 Josh, Kayla and Emily Brehmer

Cutter Family

Dorla Dagner  
 Steve Eklund  
 Stertz-Follet Family

Mary Froiland  
 Les and Becky Hanson  
 Mike and Murt Hanson  
 Randy and Bev Hummel  
 Gary and Sharon Kinler  
 Lil Knafla

Bruce and Sue LaMeyer

Bo, Michele, Josh and Amanda Myroniuk

Jenny and Olivia Nord  
 Maxine Olson and Family  
 Phil and Caren Olson; Richard and Kathryn Jefferson  
 Donna Paakkonen and Family  
 Marion Petersmeyer

Jane Peterson  
 Famboara and Jan Philibert  
 Margie Risch and Family

Moreau and Dawn Sankey  
 Simpson Family, Zach, JoAnna, Ben and Kate  
 Sunne Family  
 Mark and Margaret Swanson  
 Kay Thompson and Family  
 Mike and Carol Tveite

Mark and Gerri Wegener

In Memory of Helen Stanley  
 In Memory of my mother – Karen Barrett  
 In Memory of our parents  
 In Memory of Gary Bonneville  
 In Honor of Loved ones  
 In Memory of Grandfathers-Herm Albrecht  
 and Floyd Brehmer; Great Grandparents – Jay and Kay Katzenmeyer  
 In Memory of Don and Marie and Vance and Nelly  
 In Memory of Ruth Clayton and Don and Nellie  
 In Memory of Herman Dagner, husband  
 In Memory of Earl F. Eklund and Phyllis J. Eklund  
 In Honor of Audrey and Evie,  
 who remind us that life always conquers darkness  
 In Memory of Ellen Allen and David Froiland  
 In Memory of our parents  
 In Honor of All God's People  
 In Memory of our Parents  
 In Memory of our family in heaven who are waiting for us  
 In Memory of Precious Son, Richard; Grandson Mike; Husband Loran;  
 Son-in Law Larry; Brother (Dana & Mary); Mother & Father Richard & Ruby  
 In Memory of our parents Rog & Char Suneson, Jeanie LaMeyer;  
 Our Grandchildren Hailee and Charlie  
 In Memory of our mom and Grandma  
 Sonia Myroniuk; our Dad and Grandpa Don Kruse  
 In Memory of Dawn, Dylan and Payton  
 In Memory of Gary Olson, Father, Grandfather  
 In Memory of Rev. Duane and Arda Olson (parents)  
 In Memory of Gary Paakkonen and Jim Teigen  
 In Memory of John Petersmeyer, husband;  
 Gabriella Wetschka, Great-Granddaughter  
 In Memory of parents James and Mabel Peterson  
 In Memory of mother, Helen Weum  
 In Memory of loved ones lost too soon;  
 parents, siblings, cousins and friends!  
 In Honor of Our Parents  
 In Memory of Marian and Ray Woolery  
 In Memory of Charles Swanson  
 In Memory of Eugene & Shirley Tedamonson  
 In Memory of our parents,  
 Bill & Eleanor Takala and Paul & Polly Tveite  
 In Honor of our Grandchildren



# Oak Grove

LUTHERAN CHURCH

**Pastors:**

Tom Zarth

Brice Eichlersmith

**Church Office:**

(612) 869-4917

**Worship:**

8:30 & 11 a.m.

**Education Hour:**

9:45 a.m.



## Mosaic Project

This project incorporates elements from the sanctuary and input from the Third-Fifth Grade Sunday School students to create an image that reminds us that we all travel life's path through God's love!



**SAVE THE DATE FOR VBS 2020  
ROCKY RAILWAY - JULY 27 - 31**