

School Kit Drive

On Rally Sunday, our youth programs will be assembling school kits for Lutheran World Relief. You can help by donating the following school supplies or by financial gifts to support the shipping cost fund. A bin has been placed near the coffee room for supply donations.

- Single subject notebook
- Rulers
- Black or Blue Pens (no gel)
- Blunt tip scissors
- Unsharpened pencils
- 24 pack of crayons
- Eraser
- Pencil Sharpener



*Your Gifts
are Needed!*

Can you help in one or more of these places?

VBS Helper

Communion Bread Baker

Church Cleaning Projects

Donate VBS Supplies

Donate School Supplies or help sew backpacks



*No one is too small to
play their part!*

From the Pastor's Office



Summer book club is in full swing and it is always a great time to gather with others to discuss the materials we have read together. Our book for June was *The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store* and I think I speak for our whole group when I say that this book was difficult to get through. However, although one of our participants would go as far as to say this book was “awful”, we also agreed that delightful and heartfelt discussion came from the topics and characters in this book. That’s the beautiful thing about reading together: even if you don’t enjoy the book as a whole, you still get something out of it.

The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store tells of a mixed culture community in the early 1900s and the diverse and difficult lives they live. Ultimately, the characters, despite their differences, come together as a community, united by a common goal.

“To her the world was not a china closet where you admire this and don't touch that. Rather she saw it as a place where every act of living was chance for a *tikkun olam*, to improve the world.” (page 275)

Tikkun olam was not a phrase I was familiar with before this story. I appreciated this description of *tikkun olam* on Chaba.org: “Each act of *tikkun olam* is a fine-tuning of our world’s voices. With each *tikkun*, we are creating meaning out of confusion, harmony from noise, revealing the unique part each creation plays in a universal symphony that sings of its Creator.”

This is a deeper meaning of the term *tikkun olam*: The word *olam* also means hidden. We need to repair the world so that its Creator is no longer hidden within, but shines through each thing in magnificent, harmonious beauty. While this is by no means a “Christian” concept, I believe the same can be said of each of us living our lives of faith.

Where have you seen an expression of *tikkun olam*? How have you seen small acts work towards repairing the world - are their small acts you can take today to help repair this broken world and restore God’s creation? How do our words and actions play a part in the larger whole, the “symphony”, that sings the praise and work of our Creator?

Pastor Kayla will be out of the office July 4-10th, July 14-15th, and August 10-15th.

Updates from Synod Assembly:

Delegates from Our Saviour’s were Pastor Kayla, Britt Jacobsen, and Larry Gaarder. Susan Degner and Clara Kjelland attended as members of Synod Council. Both Susan and Clara will be serving another year on synod council, with Pastor Kayla being elected to serve on the synod’s candidacy committee. We continue, as a conference, to lift up lay ministers and train them for ministry - with news being received that some funds have been giving to our conference to begin a new program.

A wonderful speaker from ELCA churchwide presented on stewardship and generosity - you will be hearing more about this in the coming months as we try to use some of his thoughtful materials and questions. The only resolution to come to the floor this year was updating the guidelines and compensation packages for rostered leaders. Next synod assembly is a bishop election year.

Council & Committee Reports

Stewardship

Greetings Friends!

As I write this for the summer newsletter I am wondering where June went! And not just June but the last six months!

Considering how quickly time flies, it may be a good time to ask when was the last time you reviewed or updated your Church contribution? Whether you make your donations using Simply Giving, a monthly bank transfer or by putting an envelope in the offering tray, I'd like you to take a moment and consider giving Our Saviour's a raise. Inflation hits all of us at home and your Church home is no exception.

Another thing your Church home has in common with your family home is the replacement of things that wear out. Have you noticed the new windows that replaced the old drafty ones in the Church offices? They look wonderful and you can really tell how much more energy efficient they are. The next much needed update will be the air conditioners which have struggled to do their job the last few years, especially the one in the Food Pantry. Thank you to everyone who has given special donations to these projects as we continue to upkeep the places that we do ministry. If you are interested in giving to these projects, simply note it on your offering that it is for building and grounds projects.

If you are interested in signing up for Simply Giving please stop in or call the Church Office.

-- Submitted by Patty Dahlen on behalf of the Stewardship Committee



Fall Cleanup Days

As we get close to school starting and all our programs kicking off again, we will need some help getting the church back in tip-top shape! We will be hosting two cleaning days with lots of projects to get done. All ages can help! A light meal will be provided for all volunteers.

July 27th : Noon - 3pm

August 6th: 4pm - 7pm

Financial Snapshot

as of June 1, 2025

2025 Income

\$78,695.35

2025 Expenses

\$91,752.65

Current Net Loss:

\$13,057.30



It's time to register for Vacation Bible School! Invite a friend! Volunteers are needed for snack time, helpers, and food for meals.

Sign up to volunteer or donate supplies here!



Youth going into 5th, 6th, or 7th grade next fall are invited to attend an overnight lock-in at the church on July 24th with the Camp Metigoshe Staff. Register by texting Pastor Kayla or calling the church AND filling out the VBS forms online.



**Backpack Blessing:
August 24th
Rally Sunday:
September 14th**



Contact Us

Pastor Kayla: pastorkaylahill@gmail.com
Pastor's Cell: 701.226.1684
Margaret (office): oslcparkriver@gmail.com
Website: www.oslcparkriver.com

