



ORFORDVILLE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God.

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MAY 2022 NEWSLETTER

Genesis 35:6-8

“Jacob came to Luz (that is, Bethel), which is in the land of Canaan, he and all the people who were with him, and there he built an altar and called the place El-bethel, because it was there that God had revealed himself to him when he fled from his brother.”

I have been thinking a lot about what it means to be church. It is where we sing together, praise and pray together, and where we go to the altar together. We baptize, hold weddings and funerals at church. It is a busy place. But I continue to be reminded that church is not a building. It is all of us. It is the body of Christ sent into the world to participate and be in the world. We gather in the building and it helps center us, it helps us develop a community. But we are invited to go out into the world.

This reminded me of a book I read by Barbara Brown Taylor titled *An Altar to the World*. I read the book a few years ago and have picked it up again this spring. Taylor reminds me time and time again about the possibilities of seeing God in almost everything as she sees altars all over creation. I am again reminded to look at the world in a new way, to really open my mind to the possibilities of God’s presence in those things that surround my life. Taylor says, “Human beings may separate things into as many piles as we wish—separating spirit from flesh, sacred from secular, church from world. But we should not be surprised when God does not recognize the distinctions we make between the two. Earth is so thick with divine possibility that it is a wonder we can walk anywhere without cracking our shins on altars.”¹ Seeing altars in this way can be a journey of faith. It isn’t just the words we say, it’s living in the presence of God with all of our senses and being open to possibilities.

One Seminary Professor told me that altars were built at one time to celebrate encounters people had with God. So, as painful as “cracking our shins on altars” sounds, it strikes home with me that I should see altars in what might seem like the ordinary. How am I open to the possible altars that surround me? The trees in my backyard are blooming again, the creek down the road from the parsonage keeps flowing, the sound of laughter of kids at a church, all these and many more sights and sounds are reminders of God’s presence. God is in, over and around all of these things.

When I think about God’s very presence this close to the places I see and where I walk, I can quickly work up feelings of awe. Even in the cold winter days or those warm hot summer days I am anxious to get out

¹Barbara Brown Taylor, *An Altar in the World: A Geography of Faith*, 1st ed. (New York: HarperOne, 2009).

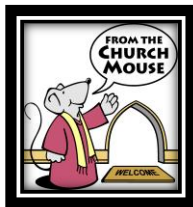
and take a walk and see what is going on in the world. As I sit in our back yard and watch the robins looking for food and building their nests I am amazed. Sparrows are coming to the arborvitaes by the front door with twigs and straw for their nests, a large tom turkey strutted across the yard a few days ago. The day I wrote this the sunshine is so bright I have to put my sunglasses on. It is easy to get excited about creation, I don't want to miss a thing! At night I take the dogs out for a walk and look up at the stars and they are brilliantly lit. You would think my shin would hurt non-stop.

During our Easter sunrise worship the sun rose in brilliant oranges, yellows and reds declaring that Christ has risen and this is the day the Lord has made and it was shared with many of you. We are invited to take time to really live in world, walk amongst it, observe it, and to thank God for the beautiful world and all its wonder. In doing so I hope to keep in mind Taylor's advice, that you and I can take the time to see God in the world around us whether on a walk, a car ride, sitting on the front porch, or talking with friends and family over the phone.



Thank you to Roger & Kathy Demrow for Donating palms to decorate the front of the church on Palm Sunday

Donated in Memory of their Parents



Upcoming Events & Announcements

Special Congregational Meeting – Sunday, May 1st

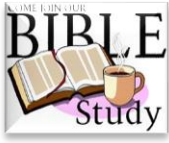
There will be a Special Congregational meeting on May 1st immediately following worship service. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the final proposal for air-conditioning in the sanctuary. A congregational vote will be taken to seek approval of this agenda item.

Senior Luncheon – Wednesday, May 4th at 11:30 a.m.

Just a reminder that the Senior Luncheon will be held on Wednesday, May 4th at 11:30 a.m. in the church basement. On the menu this month is Chicken Chow Mein, Peas/Carrots, Rolls and a delicious dessert! A \$5.00 free will offering helps to defray the cost of groceries. Following the luncheon will be a presentation on Circuit Riders by Sue Desmond. Don't miss out on the fun and fellowship! **Please RSVP to the Orfordville Library at 608-879-9229.**

Update on Confirmation Classes

Just a reminder that Confirmation class moves back to Luther Valley Church on May 4 & 11 at 6:30 p.m. Luther Valley confirmation students will be confirmed on Sunday, May 15th. **Orfordville Lutheran does not have any students being confirmed this year.**



Coffee, Chocolate & The Bible – Luther Valley Lutheran Church

Bible Study moves to Luther Valley for the month of May. All are invited to join Bible Study on Thursdays at 10 a.m. Each Bible Study stands on its own so you do not need to attend every Bible Study.

Celebrating our Graduates – Sunday, May 22nd during worship service

If you will be graduating from high school or from college, please inform the church office via email at office@orfordvilhelutheran.org or call the church office at 608-879-2575 to leave a message. We would like to make sure that everyone is recognized for their accomplishments. This is an excellent time to bless those taking the next step in their life journey.

OLC Foundation Scholarship - Apply before July 1st

The OLC Foundation is currently taking scholarship applications for students from our congregation.

- **First time applicants:** Please email Deb Speich, at dspeich@wekz.net, to request an application be sent to you.
- **Continuing students:** Send a letter to the OLC Foundation Board to request consideration for a scholarship. The letter, along with a copy of your college transcript/report card, should be sent to Deb Speich at dspeich@wekz.net.

Scholarships will be awarded upon the completion of the 1st semester of the school year. **All applications and letters of request are due by July 1st.**

Seeking Readers for May and June

We are seeking Readers for our Sunday Worship Services. If interested, you may sign-up on the *Worship Assistant Sign-Up* sheet found in the Narthex or contact the church office to volunteer.

Lutheran World Relief - A Season of Hope - UPDATE

Our Personal Care Kits, for Lutheran World Relief, have been assembled. Thank you to everyone that donated items for the kits. Orfordville Lutheran Church will be donating 44 Personal Care Kits this year.

Church Council Meeting – Monday, May 9th at 6:30 p.m.

The next Church Council meeting will be held on Monday, May 9th at 6:30 p.m. Please contact a church council member if you have an item or concern that you would like brought before the council.

Janitorial Position Open at OLC

Seeking a person to perform a variety of cleaning and maintenance duties. The cleaner will be in charge of maintaining all public spaces within the church as well as office and storage areas. Duties will include vacuuming, mopping, surface cleaning, dusting, and bathroom services. Attention to detail and a positive attitude a must. Cleaning schedule may vary dependent upon worship services, special events and public use of the building. Must be reliable and able to generate at her / his own pace, without direct supervision, yet meet the requirements of the job.

4 hours weekly, additional hours may be required related to special occasions. Hourly rate is \$15.00/hr.

Memorial Funds

The Church Council is reviewing our Designated & Undesignated Memorial funds records. If you have donated Memorial Funds between the years of 2017 – present, please contact the Glen Johnson or Pastor Tom to discuss.

June Newsletter Deadline – Monday, May 23rd

You are welcome to submit an article, announcement and/or pictures for the June newsletter. Please send your items, via email to: office@orfordvillelutheran.org. You may also contact Sue Draves to let her know what you would like to submit for the newsletter.

Thank yous and Thanksgivings:

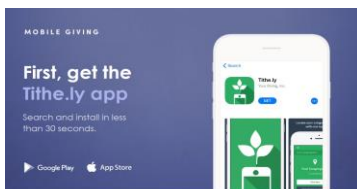
- Thank you to those who brought in flowers for our beautiful Easter Garden.
- Thank you to our Sunday School for the Ice Cream Social – It was yummy!
- Thank you to Racheal Grenawalt, Kathy Demrow, Deb Speich & Jill Case for leading our Sunday School this year.
- Thank you to Jason Draves for showing our Sunday School kids how to make crosses from the “Palms” on *Palm Sunday* and making some for the Adults!
- Thank you to Teena Monk-Gerber and our musicians for your music leadership during Lent.
- Thanks be to God for the many blessings of this past month!

May Birthdays

5 th	Heather Dickison	20 th	Sabrina Johnson
5 th	Tim Speich	20 th	Remington Stark
7 th	Isla Bunts	21 st	Stephanie Varilek
10 th	Brayden Dailey	22 nd	Tori Smith
13 th	Violet Renly	24 th	Katelyn Frame
13 th	Brinley Larson	24 th	Tyler Rachow
16 th	Aurora Horton	25 th	Claire Bunts
18 th	Kim (LaVigne)	26 th	Steve Hazeltine
18 th	Chesney Speich	26 th	Bill Kummer
18 th	Jordan Newcomb	26 th	Cheryl Ryan
18 th	Chesney Speich	27 th	MaKaye Cook

Note:

Please help us keep our birthday lists up to date. If you see an error or if we missed someone, send us an email at office@orfordvillelutheran.org



Online and Mobile Giving Available

OLC is continuing to offer online & mobile giving through Tithe.ly. Visit www.orfordvillelutheran.org and click on the “Give” tab. You may also download the Tithe.ly app on your smartphone and search for “Orfordville Lutheran.”

Pastoral Care and Prayer

If you are facing a surgery or crisis (or if you just need someone to talk to); please reach out to Pastor Tom at 608-577-4851. If you would like to be supported in prayer, by our prayer chain, please contact Nancy Dickison at 608-879-2638 or Pastor Tom at the number above. You may also contact Pastor Tom via email at pastorkreis@gmail.com.

PALM SUNDAY

LEARNING HOW TO MAKE A CROSS FROM THE PALMS



PRESENTATION OF BIBLES



- John Grenawalt
- Avigail Pautsch
- Chesney Speich
- Jordyn Speich
- Marti Klassy
- David Page

Not all were present



SUNDAY SCHOOL

ICE CREAM SOCIAL

MAY 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10:00 am Worship <i>Special Congregational Mtg following Worship</i>	2 9:00 am Quilt Class	3 4:00 pm Healthy Ladies Fitness Class	4 11:30 am Senior Luncheon 6:30 pm Confirmation at LV	5 9:00-11:00 am C.U.P. 10:00 am Bible Study @ LV 4:00 pm Healthy Ladies Fitness Class	6 7:00 pm AA Meeting Parsonage Pastor Tom at Synod Assembly	7 Pastor Tom At Synod Assembly
8 10:00 am Worship 	9 6:30 pm Church Council Mtg 6:30 pm Plymouth 4-H	10 4:00 pm Healthy Ladies Fitness Class	11 6:30 pm Confirmation at LV (Last Day)	12 9:00-11:00 am C.U.P. 10:00 am Bible Study @ LV 4:00 pm Healthy Ladies Fitness Class	13 7:00 pm AA Meeting Parsonage	14
15 10:00 am Worship	16	17 1:00 pm Mission Quilting 4:00 pm Healthy Ladies Fitness Class	18	19 9:00-11:00 am C.U.P. 10:00 am Bible Study @ LV 4:00 pm Healthy Ladies Fitness Class	20 7:00 pm AA Meeting Parsonage	21 9 am -? Crafting Club
22 10:00 am Worship <i>Graduate Recognition Special Music</i>	23 2:00 pm Rock Valley Quilt Guild <i>June Newsletter Deadline</i>	24 4:00 pm Healthy Ladies Fitness Class	25	26 9:00-11:00 am C.U.P. <u>No Bible Study Today</u> 4:00 pm Healthy Ladies Fitness Class	27 7:00 pm. AA Meeting Parsonage	28
29 10:00 am Worship	30	31 4:00 pm Healthy Ladies Fitness Class				