



News from the Pews

VOLUME 2 ISSUE 4

May 2023



Vicar's Voice

May is upon us already – may the peace of the Risen Christ continue to bless you as we bring the Easter season to a close and embark on a Pentecost journey at the end of the month. We have a lot going on here at church as well.

Thanks to Lorraine Bock and Gwen Carr, the archives are in the process of being organized, categorized, and processed. Be on the lookout for some displays to start appearing that will highlight the past and show off some historical items of interest. Our Parish Administrator Kim has been transferring files and programs over to the new office computer system and setting up the old system to run our external cameras. The ability to work fast and efficiently with this updated computer system and larger monitor has been something to shout for joy about!

We are looking forward to worshiping together over the next few weeks with our friends in faith family across Salem. Most exciting will be our ELCA Salem gathering to celebrate Pentecost on May 28th all together at St Mark Lutheran Church. Like the “other red holiday” of Reformation – be prepared to celebrate the giving and receiving of the Holy Spirit by wearing your red and bringing along your most joyfully spirited self for a tri-part worship service!

Head Usher Caleb Stratemeyer is working with Kim and I to develop and update our servant record keeping, streamline organization and a focus on a special project for name badges and recognition ribbons. Stay tuned for more information. Along this same train of thought, we are looking to expand the pool of people willing to serve on Sundays. It is an important ministry and one where you are able to give back in a small yet mighty way, ministry through your time and talents. Reading the lessons, helping with communion distribution, lighting candles, serving as a greeter or usher, and of course helping to sing the musical parts of the liturgy are all ways to serve your faith community on Sunday morning. For those who are more adventurous there are teams of two who are scheduled monthly for Altar Guild. Contact the Chair of Altar Guild, Nancy Hallin if you are interested.

As we move forward into the summer months and many weeks of Ordinary Time be on the lookout for some ecumenical adult forum opportunities and sermon series exploring the “Big Questions” (ex. Who is Jesus? Who is God? What is evil? Am I saved?). These will be offered around Salem and in our respective communities throughout the summer. As a member of the active clergy group who crosses denominational boundaries, I am pleased to share this wonderful news! More information will be coming as the logistics and details are fleshed out. In the meantime, let me know if there are specific topics you would like to suggest!

The trees are filling out their leaves, the flowers are blooming, the birds and squirrels are happily going about their daily business – God is good when seen through God’s Creation. Creation is made to be rebuilt and renewed – and you as a part of that Creation are as well. Breathe in the spirit of renewal, rebirth and rebuilding! Let the fire of the Pentecost flame light your way forward. Boundless blessings and the peace of Christ be with you all, now and forever! *Vicar Sena.*

Simonka House

Last year more than 278 guests were served at Simonka Place a shelter for women and children. Whether seeking immediate relief or long-term support, everyone has the same opportunity for life transformation. More than two thirds of the women that are cared for have suffered from domestic or sexual violence, which have long-lasting effects on its victims. Such abuse is often a root cause for homelessness, among many other factors including mental illness and unforeseen life events.

NLF Programs – The New Life Fellowship program is the arm of our Restorative Services. We holistically address substance abuse issues and other addictive behaviors.

Employment Services – Employment services are offered to women with children who are employable and do not struggle with addiction.

Supportive Services – Support Services are offered to women who do not struggle with addiction and are not currently employable. These women may be battling either nebtak health and/or physical disabilities, victims of domestic violence, senior citizens, or mothers.

Another way to help is by joining The June Simonka Giving Circle. The Giving Circle is a group of caring people dedicated to supporting our most vulnerable sister through volunteerism, financial support and learning more the complexities of homelessness for women and children. Giving Circle Members connect personally with our homeless sisters to restore dignity, empowering each woman to break free from homelessness and thrive in her calling.

To learn more or get involved go to: ugmsalem.org



Simonka Place Renew Luncheon

Leader's Needed

Your church council is needing the following positions to be filled. The leaders currently serving in them are termed out. Elections will be held at the Congregational meeting coming in early summer.

- **Council Vice President - (currently Heidi Dupuis)**
 - The Vice-President shall preside at the meetings of the Executive Committee, the Congregation Council and the congregation in the absence of the President. The Vice-President shall also serve as convener of the Nominating Committee.
- **Council Secretary - (currently Chuck Palmquist)**
 - The Secretary shall keep the minutes of the Congregation Council and of the congregation and shall have custody of the archives of the congregation. The Secretary shall create and maintain a master calendar of Council responsibilities and include these actions on the monthly Council agendas.
- **Council Financial Secretary - (currently Laura Drager)**
 - The Financial Secretary shall be responsible for the receipt of funds, maintain records of all contributions and make regular reports to the Congregation Council and to the members as required by the Council.
- **At large Council Member - (currently Wendy Smith)**
 - The Congregation Council shall have general oversight of the life and activities of this congregation, and in particular its worship life, to the end that everything be done in accordance with the Word of God and the faith and practice of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
 - **a.** To lead this congregation in stating its mission, to do long-range planning, to set goals and priorities, and to evaluate its activities in light of its mission and goals.
 - **b.** To seek to involve all members of this congregation in worship, learning, witness, service, and support.
 - **c.** To oversee and provide for the administration of this congregation to enable it to fulfill its functions and perform its mission.
 - **d.** To maintain supportive relationships with the rostered minister(s) and staff and help them annually to evaluate the fulfillment of their calling, appointment, or employment.
 - **More details available in Chapter 12 of the Constitution**

Please contact current leaders with questions specific to their positions, nominations can be received through the office or either co-president Heidi Pramuk or Cindy Spicer.

Update: Special Congregational Meeting

Council Presidents are calling a Special Congregational Meeting.

Dual worship Service @ Holy Cross Lutheran Church on May 21, 2023,

meeting following worship service. **All active voting members** are encouraged to attend.

Topics Include:

- Changes/modifications to Constitution and Bylaws
- **Potential** vote on candidate for Transitional Discernment Pastor

Holy Cross Address: 1998 Lansing Ave NE, Salem, OR 97301

Archive Room

We are excited to share with you items we have discovered in the Archives Room. We will display items of historical significance, many of which are pictures. We are asking for your help in identifying people and sharing any memories. The display will be in the Gathering Room for 2-3 weeks so everyone will have a chance to see and enjoy their treasures.

Camp Lutherwood Women's Retreat

Camp Lutherwood is presenting a Women's Weekend Retreat!

When: July 28th to 30th at Camp

Lutherwood

Theme: 12 Places to Listen for God

Retreat Leader: Deaconess Deb Mantey

Cost: \$150



Make your reservations online on the Camp Lutherwood website, Space is limited so make your reservations now! To register please click link below!

[Camp Lutherwood Oregon \(ultracamp.com\)](http://ultracamp.com)

Asian Pacific Heritage Month

In celebration of Asian American month see below an article detailing the diversity of Asian American faith traditions.

<https://www.pewresearch.org/religion/2012/07/19/asian-americans-a-mosaic-of-faiths-overview/>

Parish Administrator New Computer

We are excited to announce we have purchased a new computer for the Parish Administrator, the old system was almost ten years old. The updated technology will greatly assist Kim as she provides parish support. The outgoing system will provide support for external cameras.



Leader of the Month

Featured Leader: Congregation Secretary – Chuck Palmquist

I was born in Silverton and raised on a farm near Mount Angel. I am the fifth of six children; there are 25 years between my oldest brother and younger sister. I am a proud Silverton Fox and a 1973 OSU graduate in Food Science and Technology. Sara and I were married at Christ Lutheran in 1979 (we met in a cannery!) My first and last jobs out of college were with Stayton Canning Co./NORPAC Foods. I worked for three other food companies early in my career. I was extremely fortunate to work in almost every area at NORPAC, including quality assurance, plant management, engineering and sales. I finished my career as VP of Sales Services, with responsibility for marketing, R&D, inventory control and others. Happily retired now for seven years.

Fun Facts about Chuck!

How long have you been in the CGSL fellowship community? Since 1976, with one year off for good behavior when we lived in California.

What brings you joy? Our family. Wife Sara, four adult sons, a daughter-in-law and one grandson. Also, happy relationships with my siblings and in-laws.

What is your favorite sweet treat? Marionberry pie.

What was your first job? Picking berries and beans. My mom first dragged me down a bean row when I was six months old.

What was your “dream job” as a child?

Baseball player.

What is your main hobby? Sports of all kinds. We are long time season ticket holders for OSU football and have shared season tickets for the Portland Timbers since they joined MLS. I golf (not all that well) most weeks with a group of my fellow NORPAC retirees. An Achilles injury at age 67 ended my softball career.

If you were stranded on a desert island, and you could have only three things with you, what would they be? A knife, a fishing net and a Costco sized case of matches.

You can switch bodies with one person for a whole year. Whose shoes do you live in?

Henry Louis Gates Jr. His spot at the confluence of history, genealogy and celebrity is fascinating.



May Birthdays

Anniversaries	Birthdays
Heidi and Michael Dupuis – 20th	Gerry Chadburn – 2nd
	Joan Mathias – 3rd
	Karen Hafner – 5 th
	George Kafka – 11 th
	Joel Mathias – 11 th
	Kay Harris – 15 th
	Christal Shafer – 20 th
	Peat Kramyer – 22 nd
	Bentley Sauer - 27 th
	Paula Davis - 29 th
	Michelle Shepherd - 29 th

May - Church Calendar

- 5/14 – Mother's Day Worship Service @ CGS, 10am
- 5/18 – Prayer Shawl, Gathering Space @ 10am
- 5/20 – Synod Assembly Online, CGS Represented by Vicar Sena and Wendy Smith, report announce at Congregational Meeting
- 5/21 – **Dual Worship Service @ Holy Cross, 10am;**
Special Congregational Meeting after Worship
- 5/28 – **Day of Pentecost Dual Worship Service @ St. Mark Lutheran Church, 10am**
- 5/29 – CGS Office Closed for Memorial Day

Synod News

This 2023 Synod Assembly will embark on a journey of practicing Jesus' way of Spiritual Friendship together. Focused on Sacred Encounter: engaging God, self, neighbor and the biosphere, not as object to control or profit from, but as Life, full of dignity and worthy of reverence, love and wonder. This is our first step toward becoming communion in our communities and strengthening this wild web of relationship for the sake of the life of God's beloved world.

CGS will be represented by Vicar Sena and Wendy Smith, May 20th, 9:30 am - 4:30 pm, on Zoom.

CGS CONTACT INFORMATION

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YouTube Channel: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCNzbxJBa_Q26xWDYx0fJ5Vg

Sunday Worship: 10:00-11:30; view YouTube sermons live or past sermons