



The Messenger

SEPTEMBER 2023 NEWSLETTER
THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOR



Save The Date! Sunday, October 22 @ 11:30 AM

Congregational Oktoberfest Event @ Eclipse Brewing, 25 Park Ave., Merchantville

Join the congregation of Our Savior for an afternoon of fellowship, fun, and German food as we celebrate Oktoberfest at Eclipse Brewing. The menu is not finalized but authentic German food and beer are sure to be on the menu. Tickets will be sold through the church office, and the event is limited to the first 100 guests. Details and prices for tickets are still being finalized but we have secured a Polka Band for our enjoyment. Please watch for more details in the Sunday bulletin and on our website. *Ruth Fisher, Fellowship Chair*

Faith Stepping Stones Blessing Services

September is once again a month chock full of blessing services for our families participating our Faith Stepping Stones ministry of faith formation. There will be some changes in when the blessing services are held now that Sunday school children are going first to their classrooms on Sunday and joining parents for the Meal and Sending portion of worship around 10:10. Please take note of the dates, times, (listed on the church calendar on page 9) and locations of when each blessing will occur as some changes from the norm have been made. *Sabrina LaBelle*



Director Sabrina LaBelle's Position Narrowed to Focus on Children & Families



In June, Director of Youth and Family Ministry, Sabrina LaBelle, who also serves as a full-time chaplain at Swarthmore College, informed Our Savior's Personnel Committee that her role and responsibilities at Swarthmore had been increased. That increase would prohibit her schedule from working weekday hours at Our Savior and necessitate a reduction in her total weekly hours from thirty to fifteen. The results Sabrina has reached in her first year in her position have been impressive with Sunday school attendance doubling, greater engagement of parents and families in ministry programs and events, as well as establishing a strong rapport with Sunday school age families. In

order to keep that momentum and continuity, the Personnel Committee agreed it would be more beneficial to Our Savior's children and family ministry to narrow the Director of Youth and Family position to that of Children and Family with Sabrina only working an average of fifteen hours per week. In doing so her new role would focus only on Sunday school, Vacation Bible Camp, and the Faith Stepping Stone program components she was already leading. Pastor Wayne will be seeking either a senior seminarian or other potential candidates to serve as a Youth Ministry Director for junior and senior high youth ministry, and he will cover those areas until a qualified candidate is identified. Our Savior is grateful for the work Sabrina has done to further children's ministry so far and looks forward to her continued partnership in the gospel. *Pastor Wayne*

Be Kind – Give Staff a Day to Unwind

"Remember the Sabbath Day and keep it holy" is one of God's most important commandments, given to God's people long before Moses went up Mount Sinai to receive the Ten Commandments. The Sabbath is a gift God gave to all creation as a time for rest and rejuvenation. However, for church staff, Sunday is not a day of rest, but more work than usual. This is why Fridays are Our Savior's church staff's Sabbath. It is day to not answer phone calls, emails, or text messages unless it is an emergency of a critical nature. Please respect the staff's Sabbath and understand any emails, texts, or voicemails will not be responded to until at the earliest on Sunday. The office hours of staff are listed on page 10.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Our Savior is a faith community that worships Jesus as our Lord, proclaims and shares God's Word, welcomes all people, serves human needs, and nurtures personal and spiritual growth through fellowship all to the glory of God.



“Weeding Out Injustice Both Root and Stem”

By Pastor Wayne Zschech

In July I attended the Rostered Ministers Gathering in “balmy” Phoenix (daily temps were above 115 each day). One of the keynote speakers was Rev. Dr. Carmelo Santos and he shared an image that I could relate to very well. Weeding. I’ve learned the most effective way to weed a garden or lawn is to eradicate the weeds at the root. Just pulling off the green stem and leafy parts at the surface may cause the garden to “look” clear of weeds, but it won’t be long until the roots send out new stems. That’s why when weeding the garden, you must dig down to eradicate the weed both root and stem.

Santos shared that just like weeds can only be eradicated when addressing both root and stem so too injustice can only be eradicated when we, who have been called to “strive for justice and peace in all the earth” in our baptism, address the intersectionality of injustices. For example, he said, “When we seek to eradicate economic injustice without also seeking to eradicate racial injustice, we will never eradicate either of them.” In other words, striving to get to the root of the injustice is even more important than addressing its symptoms that are obvious. And this will not always be welcomed by those seeking to keep the status quo.

Rev. Santos shared a quote by Helder Camara, an advocate of liberation theology who did social and political work for the poor and for human rights and democracy during the military regime in Brazil. Camara said, “When I give food to the poor, they call me a saint. When I ask why they are poor, they call me a communist.” How often do we look to simply address the symptoms of injustice and be satisfied with a “garden that looks weeded,” rather than seek to identify the cause and remove the injustice at its root?

Weeding is tedious. In fact, it is my least favorite task of gardening and lawncare, despite knowing how beneficial it is for the flowers, vegetables, and grass I seek to nurture and enjoy. It requires time on my knees, getting my hands dirty, and being bent over long enough for my back to become sore. Cutting the lawn, pruning tree limbs, and deadheading flowers is far less taxing on my body. But without weeding, the garden and lawn will never look the way the landscape architect (my wife) imagined them to look.

When God created The Garden of Eden, it was the responsibility of humans to be stewards of it. God gave us the responsibility to tend and keep it so that it may be fruitful and multiply. To have dominion over it, which is not the same thing as dominating it. It required weeding then. It will require weeding now. As we enter a new “season” of ministry we might do well to examine the “gardens” of our hearts and minds, and discern what needs to be weeded, removing both root and stem. “Create in me a new heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me” the Psalmist writes. Let the tedious, exhausting, challenging work of weeding our hearts, minds, and actions lead to the weeding of this world’s most noxious injustices through the work we do together as a congregation in the community where Our Savior was planted 96 years ago.

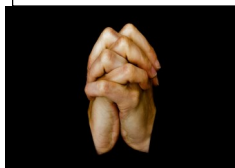
“Genesis” Bible Discussion for Daily Living Begins Sep 18/20 at 7:00PM/9:30AM

The book of Genesis traces our origins from cosmic beginnings through the stories preserved in pre-history. Each story provides us with a glimpse of God’s intentions, how God acts, and who we are in relationship to God and the rest of creation. In this study, participants will explore early stories of faith and God’s promise in the book of Genesis through each session’s big question.

Join the discussion on either Mondays from 7:00-8:30 PM or on Wednesdays from 9:30-11:00 AM in Room 112 if joining in person or clicking on the Zoom link from Our Savior’s website home page to join virtually from home. The 8-week course will cover the following questions on the corresponding dates.

Sep 18/20	Origins: Where do we come from?	Genesis 1-2
Sep 25/27	Mystery & Boundary: Can we live with God’s terms?	Genesis 3
Oct 2/4	Trouble in Paradise: How does God deal with evil?	Genesis 6-9
Oct 9/11	Hanging on a Promise: How long, O Lord?	Genesis 11-18
Oct 16/18	How could God ask such a thing?	Genesis 21-25
Oct 23/25	Does God love just anyone?	Genesis 27-32
Oct 30/Nov 1	The Future: Yours, Mine, or Ours?	Genesis 37-41
Nov 6/8	Are We Promise Bearers?	Genesis 42-50





Please keep the following people in your prayers:

Bonnie Richards, Gail Hoffman, Jon Batchelor, Bill Wilson, Bob Heinze, Mike Stolarick, Lee Sargent, Carolyn Malecka, Louise Bader, Noelle Corressel, Clive Crosby, Doris Rell, Dick Wilson, Shirley Stambaugh, *baby Mavis*, *Suzanne Tracy*, *Mikael Eliassen*, *Terri Meibling*, *Savannah Martin Fox*, *John Leach*, *Marie Lattanzi Morris*, *Mary Stoops*, *Wesley Roche*, *Pamela Ilves-Goldberger*, *Shellee Conley*, *Debbie Hodulik*, *Dolores Littleton*, *Kelly Mosteller*, *Angela Melchiorre*, *Sheamus Joseph Kinnarney*, *Mike DiMartinis*, *Shuvanon Shahid*, *Eric Kelly*, *Shellee Conley*, *Steven Alutore*, *Brenda Jarger*, *Dale & Maureen Runge*, *Lois Cummins*, *Rich DeBella*, *Ralph Volpe*, *Peggy Miller*, *Rosemary Dougherty*, *Colin Lawlor*, *Amelia Marchese*, *Albert Kern*, *Michelle Mavis*, *John Rell*, *Larry Thatcher*, *Scott Hansen*, *Abby Phelps*, *Bill Getty*, *Carmela Crawford*, *Jacob Berard*, *Keith Maull*, *Connie Verner*, *Judy Yerkes*, *Daniel Mandel*, *Susan Mazzeika*, *Saunders Family*, *Sandy Ferguson*, *Terry Mitchell*, *Bette Roncace*, *Nicholas Juele*, *Beckham Williams*, *Ed Clark*, *Col. Fred C. Anderson*, *Fred Moffitt*, *Lily Gregorio*, *Julie Bartlett*, *Jimmy Lombardo*, *Betty Schurmann*, *Elva Mastrando*, *Chuck Atkinson*, *Sophia Campos*, *William T family*, *Ryan Roberts*, *Ed Miller*, *David Wenck*

Please keep us updated with the prayer list. If anyone should be removed or added, please let us know. Sandy—lcossandy@gmail.com

Pantry

Pantry: We are serving 12 Families: 33 People: 19 Adults, 11 Teens and 3 Children, *Lynn Block*

Pantry Thank You: Just a little note to thank all the kind people at LCOS for their generosity. I really appreciate the wonderful groceries (especially the organic items) and the gift card, it's very handy for the purchase of milk, eggs, cheese and meat. I want to make sure you know that I do not take everyone's generosity for granted. It means a lot and helps a lot to know people care." "Thank you everyone for the thoughtful and generous pantry items, coupons and *Christ in Our Home*. Special thank you to Sandy, Bobby and Jill for deliveries. Best blessings to all."

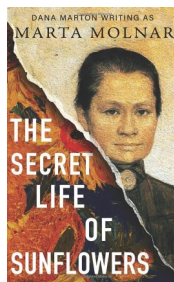


- Acme or Shop-Rite Gift Cards
- Monetary Donations
- Tuna/canned meat
- Spaghetti Sauce
- PB&J
- Paper Towels



Sisters-in-Spirit Philly Mural Arts Tour Expands to Two Groups

Registrations for the docent-led Center City Mural Arts Tour have grown into a second tour group, so there are still spots available for the September 17 event. All are welcome—women, men, friends, teens. The 90-minute tour begins at 1:30 p.m. (no bathroom breaks, rain or shine except for thunderstorms). The \$25 registration fee covers the tour and a tip for the guide. To reserve your spot, please contact Linda Nelson (lnelson824@gmail.com).



LCOS Book Club

The Secret Life of Sunflowers by Marta Molnar

The LCOS Book Club will meet September 27, 2023, at 6:30, to discuss *The Secret Life of Sunflowers* by Marta Molnar.

A gripping, inspiring novel, it is based on the true story of Johanna Bonger, Vincent van Gogh's sister-in-law. It is true but it is more. It is a fantastic dual time book concerning Johanna Bonger in the late 1800's and present-day Emsley Wilson. It is a story of self-discovery, a story that shows the strength of women and the ability to continue on with life during challenging times. If you have any questions, contact Linda Nelson at 908-400-2413 or lnelson824@gmail.com or Laura Oakes at 609-238-9186 or lauraoakes102848@gmail.com.



Outreach Committee

"Outreach" at LCOS is:

- Reaching out to our fellow members who have not been attending church to find out how they are doing, let them know we are missing them and praying for them.
- Contacting first time and recurring visitors to say "Hello and welcome to our church".
- Checking within our town, neighboring communities, and organizations on how we can help and become more engaged in the good works they do on a regular basis.
- Finding out how we can help others in any way spiritually, mentally, and/or physically.

Showing we care for all people, let our congregation shine a warm light and an loving outstretched hand to all so they know we are truly concerned for them and willing to help.

The Outreach Committee will be having their first meeting after the 9:30 AM church service on Sunday, September 24th. Please contact me Kristine Monsen cell # (856) 669-7160 kem-lmm@aol.com if you have any questions or if you are interested in joining. Looking forward to hearing from you!

Kristine Monsen



Stewards of God's Gifts...proclaiming the good news of God in Christ

This year at Our Savior we're focusing on the spiritual gifts God bestows on us through our baptism and again whenever we reaffirm our faith. We're called first to use the gifts God has given us to strengthen our own lives and then called to share his gifts with others. So far the two gifts we've looked at—living among God's faithful people and receiving word, bread and wine in worship—are inner gifts. They come to us as we worship, study and apply God's word to our own lives.

The next promise we make when we reaffirm our faith is to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed. Once we know and understand what a gift such good news is, we are called to take it out into the world. If your first thought is, "I'm not going to stand on street corners or go door-to-door handing out religious tracts"...relax! No one expects you to, and that's probably not a very effective way to reach people anyway. But what is effective is when we live our public lives in a way that witnesses to our faith. When we discuss our faith with friends and family, when we invite others to join us for worship or special events at church, when we support worthy causes with both time and money, we are proclaiming in word and deed what we value. We live in the newness of life in Christ each day.

How much do you proclaim the good news of God in word and deed? How might God be stirring you to expand your current faith practice in this area?

A good way to proclaim your faith is to financially support year round God's work in the world. Thanks to all whose gifts to LCOS over the summer have kept the church doors open and its finances on an even keel. If your giving has lagged a bit this summer, now is a good time to catch up so that Fall finds Our Savior ready to resume a full schedule.

Linda Nelson



Colaborate Lutheran Confirmation Ministry Begins on Sept. 10 - 6:30-8:00

The beginning of another year of confirmation ministry begins Sunday, Sep 10, with a "Back to Confirmation Night" orientation from 6:30-8:00 for both 7th and 8th grade youth and parents in Parish Hall. After listening to the feedback from families participating in last year's program Pastor Wayne and Director Sabrina LaBelle agreed to overhaul the confirmation ministry of the past 17 years and begin using a completely new curricula called Colaborate: Lutheran Confirmation. Why

the change? Rather than focusing exclusively on a deep dive of Luther's Small Catechism the new curricula will explore the whole of the Christian faith, the Bible, and the Catechism addressing key questions teens likely struggle with when it comes to their faith in God and Jesus.

Why did we choose Colaborate: Lutheran Confirmation? Four reasons.

Made for Lutheran youth. Colaborate was created by people who know the Lutheran tradition, the Bible, and teens.

A lasting faith experience. Colaborate promotes a rich, meaningful confirmation experience by presenting faith as a path of growth and discovery.

A lasting Bible. *Colaborate: Lutheran Student Bible* brings the story of God to life. It's smart, fun, and durable.

Problem-based learning. Students discover how faith is relevant to their lives as they collaborate on a variety of projects.

How will this new curricula accomplish this? The answer is in the name; CO/LAB/ORATE

CO: Framing the Problem An opening infographic sets up the tension for the lesson, explicitly centering on student assumptions, biases, even disinterest.

LAB: Teaching and Learning The center spread of the lesson equips students to work through the tension created in the first section. It presents content in a memorable, visually powerful way, incorporating Bible passages, catechism material, and Lutheran history to help give students a stronger sense of the theology and doctrine behind each lesson.

ORATE: Project and Closing The session ends with an individual writing project and a more active group project, which gives participants opportunities to articulate what they've discovered, share their thoughts with others, and engage with the broader church community.

Pastor Wayne looks forward to sharing more about this new model of confirmation ministry with both teens and their parents on September 10 at 6:30. *Pastor Wayne*



Sixth Graders Invited to Serve as Acolytes. Training Sep 16 @ 7:00 in Sanctuary

Beginning this year, the eligibility to serve in worship as an acolyte is extended to youth in the sixth grade. Boys and girls who are interested in being an acolyte will need to attend the training session held on Friday, September 16, from 7:00-8:00 in the sanctuary in conjunction with the beginning of the Confirmation Fall Retreat where seventh and eighth graders will also be receiving instruction. A "Stepping Into Serving at the Altar" blessing rite will be held at the 9:30 worship service on Sunday, September 25 for the sixth, seventh, and eighth graders who will be serving as acolytes. Please contact Pastor Wayne (wzschech@yahoo.com) if you plan to attend and begin serving as an acolyte in wor-



Justice and Peace Committee: Racism comes in many forms, including antisemitism and antimuslim sentiment

A message from ELCA Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, *Living Lutheran*, June 30 '23

"My husband and I live in Skokie, Ill., a diverse community. Our neighbors to the west are an octogenarian Taiwanese Evangelical couple who regularly order meals from Kosher to Go. Our neighbors to the east are a Ukrainian and Russian multigenerational family. Our grocery stores have both kosher and halal departments. As I drive past the elementary school on my

way to work, I see moms and dads in jeans along with women in saris or hijabs and men in thobes or yarmulkes. More than 90 languages are spoken in the homes of our school district. We pay our taxes, mow our (tiny) lawns, worship, raise our children and pretty much get along in our little village of Skokie.

"Late one afternoon a few years ago I was finishing up yard work. I had been weeding and trimming all day. I was tired and grass-stained. Just one more pile of leaves needed to be swept up. I noticed a woman walking toward me so I hurried to get the sidewalk cleared. She stopped and told me that she had seen me working all day and thought I might be too tired to prepare supper. She had made a meal for me and my husband. It was during Ramadan—the month when Muslims fast from food and water during the day and engage in prayer and acts of charity. This was her act of charity and generosity. She smiled and walked away. I was stunned.

"There has been an alarming rise in hate speech and violence against religious and ethnic minorities in this country. At the same time, we've seen an increased polarization among us, even in our dear church. There is a movement to define what it means to be a "real American." Some would define this as white, Christian and native born...

"...Who is a "real American"? I say that my Muslim neighbor walking freely down the street in a hijab to offer a meal to her Christian neighbor during Ramadan is a real American. Motivated by her Muslim faith she acted as neighbor to me. She is not less American because she is Muslim. Because she is an American, she can be her authentic self and participate in building our community and country. What binds us together is not ethnicity but shared participation in our civic life springing out of our cultural heritages and working for the common good."

Want to find out more about The LCOS Justice and Peace Committee? You could help the congregation "to live out our baptismal commitment to strive for justice and peace in all the earth." The committee focuses on racism, environmental injustice, gun violence and LGBTQIA persecution. You could make a difference.

Next meeting: Sept. 24, 10:45 a.m., LCOS Parlor.

Also This Month

- September's National Hispanic Heritage Month celebrates the histories, cultures and contributions of American citizens whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean, and Central and South America. *Linda Nelson*



EPIC (Experienced Persons in Community)

We gather again for our last EPIC until September on Tuesday, June 27 at noon for another enjoyable lunch and afternoon of cards, Mexican Train, and fellowship. Each month we will meet on the 4th Tuesday unless as indicated*. Invite your friends of all ages to join us, the more the merrier!



- The schedule for the rest of 2023 into 2024: June 27, Sept. 26, Oct. 24, Nov. 28, **Dec. 19***, Jan. 23, Feb. 27, March 26, Apr. 23, **May 21***, June 25.

It would be helpful for me if you would RSVP a week before the scheduled date so that there will be enough food and drinks for everyone. **Please RSVP to :** Judy Caravelli Text/Call: 609 471-5830 Email: 2006jac@comcast.net



Life Line Screening, the nation's leading provider of preventive health screenings, will offer affordable, non-invasive and painless health screenings at Lutheran Church of Our Savior on Friday, October 6, 2023.

Carotid Artery Screening (Plaque): An ultrasound is performed to screen the carotid arteries for buildup of fatty plaque. This buildup, called atherosclerosis, is one of the leading causes of stroke.

Peripheral Arterial Disease Screening: An Ankle-Brachial Index (ABI) test is performed using blood pressure cuffs on the arms and legs. It is important to screen for PAD because it increases the risk of coronary artery disease, heart attack, or stroke.¹

Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm (AAA): An ultrasound is performed to screen the abdominal aorta for the presence of an enlargement or aneurysm. AAA can lead to a ruptured aortic artery, which is a serious medical emergency.

Atrial Fibrillation: A 6-lead electrocardiogram (EKG) is performed by placing sensors on the arms and legs to screen for Atrial Fibrillation. AFib can lead to blood clots, stroke, and heart failure, and other heart-related complications.²

These 4 vital screenings take 60-90 minutes to complete. Register by calling toll free 1-844-591-7160, text the word "circle" to 216-279-1607 or online at <https://llsa.social/HC>



Stewarding God's Gifts, Even in the Summer

When we think of the intangible gifts God gives to us personally—the gifts that feed our faith and worship lives—we should count summer in that list. The longer hours of sunlight, slower pace, beautiful gardens, fresh produce are gifts that enrich our lives and help us rest and rejuvenate. Summer worship also helps us renew. We hope you make time this summer to receive God's baptismal gifts, gathering with our church family and receiving His word and the sacrament of communion.

Travel, family events and Sunday activities may draw us away and maybe interfere with our giving. However, just like the expenses at your house, the bills still arrive in the church office in July and August, and the commitments Our Savior has made to help our neighbors in need don't take a vacation. As you enjoy your summer, please remember how your gifts to LCOS matter.

And remember, summer is traditionally when many charities and helping groups see a big demand on their services, but a drop in their income. Please also continue reaching out to help these other groups and the vulnerable communities they serve. Please continue reaching out to share God's gifts at Our Savior and beyond.

Have a blessed, safe summer. See you in church! *Linda Nelson*

My Father's House Update



We are asking the congregation to donate boxes of individually wrapped, non-perishable snacks (granola bars, popcorn, pretzels, etc.) along with cases of single-serve drinks (water, soda, Gatorade, iced tea, etc.). Donations can be left on the designated shelves just outside of Parish Hall. Gabby Berrios, coordinator of this ministry, will deliver the food and drinks to My Father's House.

Thank you to all of the volunteers who have contributed to the long term success of the Father's House ministry over the years. If you have questions or would like to help deliver donations, please reach out to Gabby Berrios (mrsbee8123@outlook.com) *Gabby Berrios*



Thank you for Donations to Caring Hearts, Fall Shampoo Collection

Social Ministry Committee assists Caring Hearts families that are seen by Cooper Hospital's Pediatric Infectious Disease Practice. We usually support the seasonal holiday parties by providing baked goods and refreshments as well as a collected item (such as underwear, baby wipes, socks, deodorant, and gifts from Advent Giving Tree) and provide assistance at

these parties. We also support Caring Hearts with a monetary donation in March and a special Christmas donation.

Thank you to LCOS members for your generosity during our collections for Caring Hearts this year, the goals have been exceeded. LCOS collected men's and women's deodorant in February 2023. Caring Hearts assembled tote bags filled with various personal care products including the deodorants, toothpaste, toothbrushes, soaps, sanitary pads, and tampons, that the Cooper staff will give to the families at upcoming appointments. The goal was to fill at least 20 tote bags with these personal care items. LCOS collected more men's and women's deodorant, and 3-packs of soap this Spring, at least 20 of each. After each collection, tote bags containing the various personal care items were assembled, and then given to families at their appointments at Cooper.

All in-person events were cancelled in 2020, 2021, and 2022 due to the coronavirus pandemic. Caring Hearts is now able to resume in-person events in 2023. A Back-to-School Party was held Friday August 11, 2023 at the Armitage Pavillion along Cooper River near Route 130. For the Back-to-School event on Friday August 11th, LCOS collected full size toothpaste (not the little sample toothpaste) and toothbrushes, at least 30 of each to be included in tote bags to be given to families at the event along with other personal care items. This goal was exceeded, so extra toothpaste was donated for Camp Bright Feathers, a week-long summer camp in Medford, NJ for children affected by HIV/AIDS to be held August 20-25, 2023. We still had extra personal care items, so these will be used towards our Fall collection. Caring Hearts is also planning to hold a Holiday Party in December.

For our Fall collection, LCOS has been asked to collect 20 shampoo to be included in tote bags to be given to families at Cooper along with other personal care items. A collection box for Caring Hearts is available on the shelves outside Parish Hall for your donations. Deadline is September 24th. Betsy will deliver these to Ilyse on Wednesday September 27th. Contact Betsy Kuehn for more information.

Looking forward to Fall 2023, Social Ministry Committee will be planning for the Holiday Food Drive and Advent Giving Tree, dates to be announced in messenger articles and bulletins. *Betsy Kuehn*

COME & JOIN US FOR A

BOOK LAUNCH EVENT

with Author, Speaker and Advocate

Jamie Bruesehoff

and special guests:



Rebekah Brueschoff
Author, Advocate and Speaker



Dr. Linda Hawkins
*Gender and Sexuality Development Clinic
at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia*

Tuesday, September 19, 7:00pm
at Cherry Hill Public Library

For information visit:
jamiebruesehoff.com

Book sales by:



**INKWOOD
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**ST. MICHAEL'S
LITERARY CHURCH**
an interfaith community of writers and readers



**Unitarian
Universalist Church
in Cherry Hill**



**Prince of Peace
Lutheran Church**



Lutheran Church of Our Savior
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

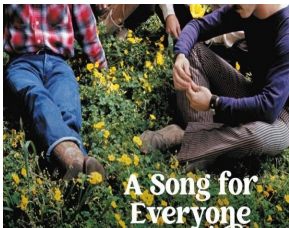
"Families like the Bruesehoffs personify our progress."
—SENATOR SARAH McBRIDE

RAISING KIDS BEYOND THE BINARY

Celebrating God's Transgender
and Gender-Diverse Children

JAMIE BRUESEHOFF
AFTERWORD BY REBEKAH BRUESCHOFF





A Song For Everyone - Some Thoughts on the Ministry of Music

You may be surprised to hear that I don't really play the piano for Millie that much. Or maybe you are not really that surprised - which probably means you remember what it is like to have a sweet little baby that both wants to be held often or simply requires both hands to be cared for (and sometimes it feels like even two hands isn't enough!). But worry not, Millie still gets sung to all the time! Often it's just me making up silly songs to accompany whatever activity we're doing, sometimes it's a German lullaby that has her eyes closing by the third verse, and sometimes it's a hymn. In fact, I

believe making music with one's child is so important that I am in the process of starting a class for local parents and their little ones! Just as your meals fed us in those very first weeks of parenthood, making music together can feed the souls of the parents coming together and the babies as they are being lovingly sung to.

I am wondering, what is a song that you love to sing or being sung to? What song do you remember singing growing up? Do you remember a parent singing a certain song to you? What do you remember singing in Sunday School? What hymn excites you when you see it listed in the bulletin on Sunday morning? What is an anthem that you love hearing whenever the choir does it? Feel free to email me your thoughts or let me know when you see me at church!

While I may be the director of our music ministry, music really ministers to us all the time, whether a director is around or not. It may be a song on the radio as you are driving home at the end of a long day, a song you dance to in the kitchen while preparing dinner, a hymn consoling you as you grieve, or a silly song your grandchild loves to sing. There is a song for everyone, just as there is a place for everyone at God's table.

It wouldn't be my September article if I didn't also remind you that there is a place for everyone in the choir! We will be starting all choirs in September, so if you are looking to join or have a friend, child, or grandchild that is interested, please let me know! Should you choose to not join, please raise your voice in praise as we sing on Sunday mornings - after all, as Saint Augustine said, he who sings, prays twice! *Pauline Worusski*

Pastor Wayne Discovers New Children's Books at Rostered Minister's Gathering

While attending the Rostered Ministers Gathering Pastor Wayne discovered five new children's books from Augsburg. They are great stories to read your children and grandchildren that relate to our faith in life. Check them out from Our Savior's Library. They are on display in the narthex during September.

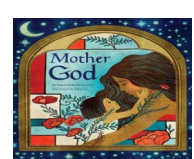
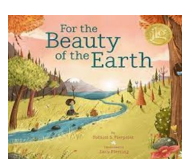
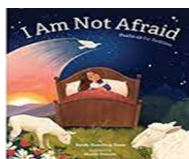
I Am Not Afraid by Sandy Eisenberg Sasso. When fear and shadows steal your sleep and peace, reach out in comfort in this gentle imaginative retelling of Psalm 23.

There's No Wrong Way to Pray by Rebecca Ninke and her daughter Kate E.H. Watson. "For those who have never prayed and those who do, this book opens God's world to all." – Dr. Norma Cook Everist

For the Beauty of the Earth by Folliot S. Pierpoint. Written in 1864, the hymn *For the Beauty of the Earth* is a timeless celebration of creation, community, family, and faith. The words of this classic song come to life with the beautiful illustrations from illustrator Lucy Fleming, delighting children and adults alike.

God's Holy Darkness by Sharei Green and Beckah Selnick. From the darkness at the beginning of Creation to the blackness of the sky on the night when Christ's birth is announce, this captivating picture book deconstructs anti-Blackness in Christian theology by exploring instances in the story of God's people when darkness, blackness, and night are beautiful, good, and holy.

Mother God by Teresa Kim Pecinovsky. A visually stunning exploration of the feminine images of God from Scripture, and an invitation for kids to experience God as Mother.



Congregational Support: January – June 2023

<u>Year</u>	<u>Average YTD Attendance*</u>	<u>Total General Fund Offerings</u>
2021	187	\$193,872
2022	187	\$203,276
2023	186	\$213,484

* Since March 2021, when church reopened, the in-person attendance at all services is added to the livestream Facebook numbers to get the total number in attendance for any given week. Livestream attendance is calculated using a formula provided by the ELCA: number of one-minute views on livestream multiplied by 2 to get the number of people worshipping by livestream.



Thank You for Your Faithfulness in Being Stewards of God's Love

Thank you to all who put their offering envelopes into the plate in person, mail them to the church office, or give electronically. Thanks very much for sharing your blessings so that others may know God's love.

Carol Maniaci

September 2023 Regular Events

SUNDAYS	MONDAYS	TUESDAYS	WEDNESDAYS	THURSDAYS	FRIDAYS	SATURDAYS
8:00 AM Sanctuary Worship, 9:30 AM Sanctuary Worship & Facebook Live, 9:00-9:20 AM Reflections in Parlor 9:00 AM CoffeeTime 10:40-11:00 AM Cherub Choir	10:00-12:00 & 1:00-3:00 Art Class 5:30-8:30 ChildrenSong – Choir Room 6:30-8:30 Possibility Players - PH 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM Bible Discussion	10:30 AM Pastors' Pericope 2:00 PM Staff Meeting	9:30 AM – 11:00 AM Bible Discussion 3:00-4:00 PM Tai Chi	11:00-1:00 & 7:30-9:30 PM Art Class 6:30-9:15 PM Tai Chi 7:00-8:00 PM Bell Choir 8:00 PM Adult Choir		

September 2023 Special Events

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
					Pauline	Vacation
3	4 Labor Day	5 7:00 PM Church Council 7:00 PM Toastmasters	6	7 9:00 AM Fix-It Team 9:30 AM Mission Quilts	8 6:30 PM S~I~S Planning Mtg. Deb Tredinnick's House	9 8:00-9:30 AM ChildrenSong
Until	9-7					
10 Rally Day/Mr. Softee Faith Stepping Stone Entering Into Sunday School 10:45 AM Fellowship Mtg. 9:30 AM Sunday School Teacher Blessing 6:30 PM Confirmation Orientation	11	12 11:00-3:00 HGC 7:00 PM Toastmasters	13 10-12 Singing Angels – Choir Room 6:30-9:15 PM Tai Chi	14 Messenger Deadline Adult Bell & Vocal Choir Begins No Tai Chi 9:00 AM Fix-It Team 9:30 AM Mission Quilts	15 Rosh Hashanah	16
17 9:30 AM Confirmation Blessing 6:00 PM First Bibles Class 6:30 PM Confirmation	18 7:00-8:30 PM Bible Discussion	19 7:00 PM Toastmasters 7:00 PM Social Ministry Mtg.	20 9:30-11:00AM Bible Discussion	21 Messenger Mailing No Tai Chi	22	23 8:00-9:30 AM ChildrenSong
24 Yom Kippur Acolyte Blessing 10:45 AM Outreach Mtg 10:45 AM J & P Mtg. No Confirmation	25 6:00 PM Congregation Resources 7:00-8:30 PM Bible Discussion	26 12:00 noon EPIC Group	27 9:30-11:00 AM Bible Discussion 10-12 Singing Angels – Choir Room 7:00 PM Historical Society	28 6:45-7:45 PM Bell Choir 7:45 PM Music Theory 8:00 PM Adult Choir Pastor	29 Off	30 Until 10-1

The monthly calendar is subject to change. Please check the weekly calendar posted in the Sunday bulletin.



Sabrina LaBelle, Director of Youth and Family Ministries

Sunday School Registration

Registration for Sunday School is open for all children from 4 years through 6th grade! The curriculum for Sunday School is very hands-on with four-week themes about all of the great Bible stories, both Old and New Testament. Sunday School will begin on September 10 at 9:30am. Please register early. We

would love to have as many youth registered before Rally Sunday as possible to help with planning. You can register on the website or via paper copies of the registration form at church.

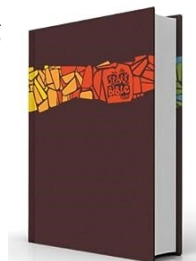


Rally Sunday

Rally Sunday marks the beginning of the new church calendar year. We will celebrate Rally Sunday on September 10th with a blessing of Sunday School teachers, honoring our new four-year-old Sunday School children with prayer cubes, having our first day of Sunday School, and most importantly... Mister Softee will be handing out treats to everyone after the 9:30 service! Please join us! The whole congregation is invited to enjoy Mr. Softee who will be parked in the parsonage driveway.!

Faith Stepping Stone: Bibles for 3rd Graders

Third graders and their parents are invited to attend the 60-minute Faith Stepping Stone class "Stepping into God's Stories" on Sunday, October 15 at 10:45 following worship. The focus of the class is on the importance of studying God's word of the Bible in a disciple's daily life. Parents and children will highlight key passages in each book of the new Spark Bible (NRSV) the children will be receiving each night using the FAITH5 model for Family Home Huddles. Children who participate in the class will receive a blessing on Reformation Sunday, October 29, at the 9:30 worship service. Those participating are asked to confirm their attendance by calling or emailing the Director of Children's and Family Ministries, Sabrina LaBelle at smgvasta@gmail.com.



Thank you to all who volunteered their time for Vacation Bible Camp this year! We couldn't have done it without you and a fun time was had by all!



Church Office Hours

The church office is closed on Friday which gives the staff a 2-day weekend. Normal working hours are Sunday, 7:30-11:30 AM, Monday-Thursday 9:00 AM- 4:00 PM. Pastor is on member visitations on Wednesday afternoons. Sandy works from home on Mondays but is available by calling the church office phone which also rings on her cell phone. Unless it is an emergency please refrain from contacting the staff on their days off. Everyone needs a couple of days to recharge! *Sandy DeDonatis*



Multiple wildfires have broken out on the Hawaiian island of Maui. Exacerbated by strong winds, wildfires on Maui have claimed dozens of lives and have destroyed homes, businesses and lines of communication. Thousands of people are under evacuation orders, some moving to other Hawaiian islands. Wildfires have also affected the Big Island of Hawaii, and the islands remain vulnerable to more fires this season.

Lutheran Disaster Response is coordinating with the Pacifica Synod and other partners to assess the needs of people impacted by the wildfires. We will work with them to provide for immediate needs and recovery amid the widespread destruction. Lutheran Disaster Response is committed to accompanying recovering communities in the years ahead.

Gifts given to Lutheran Disaster Response equip us to respond to this, and other disasters, whenever and wherever they strike. Gifts given specifically to "U.S. Wildfires" will be restricted to, and used in full (100%) for those affected by wildfires. Go to www.community.elca.org/uswildfires to donate.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Our Savior

204 Wayne Ave., Haddonfield, NJ 08033 (856)429-5122 (voice) (856)429-7245(fax) www.oursaviorhaddonfield.org

Worship 8:00 AM Traditional in Sanctuary, 9:30 AM in Sanctuary + Facebook Live

Interactive Reflections Worship 9:30 AM in Parlor + Zoom

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Sabrina LaBelle	Director of Children & Family	smgvasta@gmail.com	609-560-0003
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Haddonfield, NJ 08033

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September 2023 Messenger

Time Sensitive Material Enclosed Mailed August 17, 2023

Address Service Requested

Sep 1 Nolan Doyle
Sep 1 Johann Hintz
Sep 2 Pat Haines
Sep 3 Shannon Cain
Sep 3 Christina Schaffer
Sep 3 Paul Schmeck
Sep 4 Theodore Fetter
Sep 4 Luanne Fogelson
Sep 4 Fred Stine
Sep 6 Timothy Howley
Sep 9 Jonathan Standke
Sep 10 Bonnie Richards
Sep 11 Allie DiFelice
Sep 11 Logan Gebhart
Sep 13 Anna Riley
Sep 15 Timothy Gonzalez
Sep 15 Carole Howley
Sep 15 Maxwell Querns
Sep 15 Shirley Stambaugh
Sep 15 Suzanne Trevena
Sep 16 Elizabeth Lehr
Sep 16 Jane Lehr
Sep 16 Gavin Schmeck
Sep 16 Kyla Schmeck
Sep 16 Christine Tyrell



Sep 17 Jesse Gralish
Sep 17 Scott Leverick
Sep 18 Luke Baxter
Sep 18 Bobby Bridges
Sep 19 Sidney Speas
Sep 20 Graham Berner
Sep 21 Susan DeNinno
Sep 21 Steven Schaffner
Sep 21 Sarah Smith
Sep 22 William Ryan
Sep 23 Evan Giamboy
Sep 24 Jeannette Jelonek
Sep 24 Chris LaBelle
Sep 24 John Madiraca
Sep 24 Lily Morgan
Sep 24 Rachael Simpkins
Sep 25 Gary Jones
Sep 26 Vince Bleistein
Sep 26 CiCi LaBelle
Sep 26 Donna Stillwell
Sep 27 Amy Adams
Sep 28 Daniel Parker
Sep 28 Olivia Roncace
Sep 28 Stephen Woltz
Sep 30 Debby Madiraca
Sep 30 Thomas Melcher