



Events



March 17th Fire and Ice



March 21—
THE VAPORS



HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE, MAR 28 - APRIL 4

A LOT CAN HAPPEN IN SEVEN DAYS

TO SIGNUP FOR IN-PERSON WORSHIP GO TO <https://tinyurl.com/zf72f7wz>



Palm Sunday March 28 8:30 am and 10:00 am

There will be TWO IN-PERSON services at 8:30 and 10am with the 10am live streamed on Facebook and available on YouTube later in the day.



Maundy Thursday April 1 6:00 pm and 7:15 pm

There will be TWO IN-PERSON services at 6pm and 7:15pm with the 7:15pm live streamed on Facebook and available on YouTube the next day. Some of our young people will be making their FIRST COMMUNION at both services.



Good Friday April 2 7:00 pm

There will be ONE IN-PERSON service at 7pm and it will be live streamed on Facebook and available on YouTube the next day.



Easter Vigil April 3 8:30 pm

This service is a favorite! The service begins outside, by the fire, with a couple of readings. We then process to the church being led by the carrying of the Christ Candle. The service continues with more readings, singing, affirmation of our baptisms, and communion. This service is a candlelight service from beginning to end.



Easter Sunday April 4 7:00am, 8:30 am, and 10:00

Celebrate Christ's resurrection at one of the THREE IN-PERSON services at 7, 8:30, and 10am. The 10am service will be live streamed on Facebook and available on YouTube later in the day. Come for the awesome music and stay for the LIFE CHANGING GOOD NEWS!



THOUGHTS AFTER VISITING THE LINCOLN CENTER, ST CLOUD HOMELESS SHELTER by LORI DINGMANN

Change has become constant, perpetual, almost uncatchable like a breath. We each have a story with twists and turns that at times have felt completely erratic. Take a moment to reflect...where do you turn to find comfort...stability...safety? Where do you find your breath?

As an empath living in high definition, it was like someone drew every last breath out of my body when I walked into the dilapidated building where Homeless Helping Homeless resides with our first collection of donations. My heart felt so heavy as these beautiful humans before me sought refuge from the streets. People, with a story, snuggled on the concrete floor with blankets, sleeping. The room was full which made it hard to maneuver to the front counter. A woman finished her

bowl of soup, not at a table, but standing where she could find space. I smiled wide under my mask and greeted her, but she appeared too tired and weary to return the salutation. Then two men took the totes, with grateful hearts, who yes, are homeless too...said "You are going to be so loved today! We are completely out of coffee cups and chips", as he tripped on debris that covered every inch of the storage area. His excitement to share the donations radiated as he caught his balance.

God's children find their comfort...stability...safety here in this chaotic space. How can we nourish them, breathe life into them, share God's love with them? Please consider donating to Spring into Action...God's love, comfort, stability and safety is for all people.

Homeless Helping Homeless is an association of homeless and formerly homeless folks and their friends in the Saint Cloud MN area. Members live under bridges, in the woods, in parking ramps, garages and cars in our community. Some of us who are better off live in shelters, our friend's places, rooming houses or low income housing. The rest of us serve as companions, journeying with our friends through their trials.

Spring
into
Action

**Spring into Action
on April 11 at 9:30am**

With spring comes warmer weather and sun exposure that our area homeless may not be prepared for after a long winter of bundling up! Together, we will assemble spring/summer care bags that will hold (sun protection/water bottle/caps/lip balm). We are partnering with **Homeless Helping Homeless** to distribute the care bags. Please consider donating **sunscreen, insulated water bottle, baseball caps and lip balm** in a **TOTE** outside the church labeled **SPRING INTO ACTION**. We will assemble Sunday, April 11 at 9:30am OR if you prefer to do at home, you could assemble a care bag (we will be providing the personalized bag) and drop at the church. **Following assembly, your families are encouraged to take some Care Bags and distribute to specific areas in need. We will provide you with addresses.**

**Sign up to help fill bags and distribute to specific areas in need.
SIGN UP HERE: <https://tinyurl.com/4h5k6yr7>**

LWLC Youth

Make a Splash April 2021

Intergenerational: Spring into Action (see elsewhere in this newsletter)

K-3: Vapor Play Date

4th-6th grade: Fire and Ice

Water Vapors (K-3rd grade) on Sunday, April 18 from 3-3:45pm

Join us Sauk Rapids Municipal Park for an OUTDOOR opportunity to gather, play and take part in a family-faith activity to enrich your relationship with your child. RSVP lori@lwlcmmn.org



Fire & Ice (4th - 6th grade) on Wednesday, April 21 at 5:30-6:30pm

Join in on this outdoor TRIATHOFUN rotation: Kickball, Campfire Fun and sipping Juice with Jesus

DRESS Weather Appropriate!

5:30pm-6:30pm (Food will not be provided at this time)

If you have any questions, please email lori@lwlcmmn.org



VIRTUAL MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT EVENT

A virtual Lutheran Marriage Encounter experience via zoom is scheduled April 23-25 in central time zone. The special time together is done in the comfort of your own home at a cost of just \$100, with financial assistance available. This involves learning about ways to better communicate by listening to examples from the presenting couples.

Your own personal sharing is done only with your spouse rather than with the whole group. To register and learn more go to godlovesmarriage.org. Or text EZLME to 484848 You are welcome to invite other married couples from any where. Deadline to register is April 16.

GOOD FRIDAY COMMUNITY FOOD DRIVE!

APRIL 2 9AM -NOON

DROP OFF FOOD AND CASH DONATIONS AT
LIVING WATERS LUTHERAN CHURCH
1911 4TH AVENUE NORTH, SAUK RAPIDS, MN



The community food shelf out of Living Waters Lutheran Church currently serves up to 50 area households each week with basic food items.

FOOD SHELF HOURS:

TUESDAYS: 11am—noon

WEDNESDAYS: 6-7pm

FRIDAYS: 11am—noon

ITEMS NEEDED:

- Soup
- Cereal and Oatmeal
- Pasta and Sauce
- Tuna and Chicken
- Paper Towels
- Mac and Cheese
- Instant rice & potatoes
- Fruits & vegetables
- Peanut butter
- Toilet Paper
- Soap (dish, laundry, bath)
- Ground beef
- Cheese



New Date!

STAR GAZING GATHERING

**SATURDAY, APRIL 17
9PM**

We've re-scheduled the *STAR GAZING GATHERING* to Saturday, April 17th at 9pm. Pray for clear skies and warm temperatures! This is being offered as a final event from the Lenten Sermon Series, *THE GOOD GOD EXPERIMENT*. All ages are welcome to meet in the Living Waters parking lot. A *star guide* will be present to help us tour the night sky.



CONGRATULATIONS PASTOR ANN

Ann Bjorklund officially became an ordained and rostered pastor of the ELCA on Saturday, March 13 and was installed as the *INTERIM ASSOCIATE PASTOR* at Living Waters at church services the next day. Pastor Ann will be leading Living Waters through a study process as we determine the gifts and experience we will be looking for in calling our next pastor. Welcome to Living Waters, Ann!



Living Waters Racial Justice Taskforce presents....

MOVIE & DISCUSSION!! SUNDAY, APRIL 25 2PM

We will be showing *JUST MERCY* in the sanctuary at 2pm followed by a discussion at 4pm. For those not wanting to come in person, you are welcome to watch *JUST MERCY* on your own and join a ZOOM discussion at 4pm that day as well.

Meeting ID: 822 2254 7797 Passcode: 598972



MANY THANKS to our midweek Lenten speakers this year:

KELLI PEDERSON
RUSS VICTORIAN
BRIAN ULRICH
CAROLYN NEUBAUER
TERRY SYLVESTER
BOBBI BELL

We thank you for sharing a piece of your faith journey with our family of faith. Hearts and lives were touched by your witness. *THANK YOU as well* to the many people who offered *DAILY CHECK-INS* on our Facebook page during Lent. How awesome it is that we are a community unafraid to talk about faith!!

CONFIRMATION UPDATE!

MENTOR INTERVIEWS

7th-9th graders should be finishing up the meetings with their mentors by the first part of April. Those in 7th and 8th grade will be doing one get-together interview and those in 9th grade will be meeting with their mentors twice. If you need mentor conversation forms or have any questions, please contact Pastor Todd.

TREKS & HUDDLES RESUME

After a mini-break during the Lenten season, treks and huddles will re-start in April. Here is the schedule:

- APRIL 7 6:15pm 7th grade trek
- 9th grade huddle
- APRIL 14 6:15pm 9th grade trek
- APRIL 21 6:15pm 8th grade huddle
- APRIL 28 6:15pm 9th grade huddle



Bishop Jon Anderson at the ordination of Ann Bjorklund.

STRIPPERS NEEDED!

Now that we have your attention...

We are looking for volunteers to help undress the altar area at our Good Friday 7pm worship service. 8 volunteers are needed in all. Please contact the church office if you are willing to help. Volunteers will meet in the sanctuary at 6:30pm on April 2.

HE IS RISEN! HE IS RISEN INDEED! HAPPY EASTER, EVERYONE!

I'm happy to be part of your team in sharing the gospel. I'm looking forward to hearing more about what God has been up to at Living Waters and envisioning the ways that you see God's work in the congregation, in the community, and in the world. We'll take time to look at what God has done in the past through the people of Living Waters. And, we'll think about and dream of ways that Living Waters will be part of God's mission moving into the future.

We'll spend time praying, listening, and sharing as we try to discern the gifts needed to lead Living Waters in sharing God's love with others.

A transition team will be created to help facilitate the process as we meet in groups, individually, or on the phone. You can also share in writing, if you choose. Your input will provide guidance as the Ministry Site Profile (MSP) is developed for Living Waters. (The MSP is like a job description for the church. You share about the congregation, your desired qualities for a leader - the new pastor - and the vision you have for Living Waters so you can interview candidates for your pastoral position.)

We'll work with Synod personnel to complete the MSP and it will become available to potential candidates after it's approved. A call committee will then be formed to interview candidates that are interested in being a part of the mission of God at Living Waters.

I'm looking forward to working with all of you! Please contact me if you have any questions or want more information on the process. Pastor Ann

Goodbyes and Grieving by Pastor Ann

Pastor Ann is here to assist us in the grieving process around Pastor Denise leaving and help us look forward as we seek a new pastor.

It's often hard for pastors and parishioners to say goodbye. Pastors have taken time to get to know you, and you've taken time to get to know them. You've invested time in to the relationship. But, circumstances change, and so do roles and responsibilities.

As people that have built relationships with pastors, it's important for us to say goodbye and to allow the person to move on and live into their new role and often new responsibilities. This is especially important if pastors have taken on a new call. They're learning about their new position, the congregation, and are working on developing new relationships.

It's also important for parishioners to develop new or deeper relationships with current leader(s). They are responsible for leading and sharing the gospel using the gifts God has given them. They are not going to have the same style, the same gifts, or the same personality as the person that left. But, we're all created in God's image, and God's love and diversity shows up in each of us.

Remember, your pastor or church leader may want to keep contact too, but they know that the new or current leader(s) need to be given the opportunity to do their job(s).

Lack of contact on your part or the part of your previous pastor or church leader doesn't mean that neither of you cares about the relationship. It may mean exactly the opposite—that you care a lot about the other person and their success and that you want them to do well where they are, so you're allowing them to focus on the new, different roles and responsibilities.

It's okay to experience a sense of sadness and loss, and to grieve that loss. It's okay to lament the fact that things will be different going forward. It's okay to think of how the person had been a part of your life.

I Corinthians 3:5-9 (NRSV) says,

⁵What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you came to believe, as the Lord assigned to each. ⁶I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. ⁷So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. ⁸The one who plants and the one who waters have a common purpose, and each will receive wages according to the labor of each. ⁹For we are God's servants, working together; you are God's field, God's building.

Let's thank God for the people who have been part of our journey and see what God has in store for our futures!

First Communion

Just about a year ago, several young people of LWLC went through their First Communion Class. They learned about communion, tasted the wine, and painted their chalice. After class, the chalices were delivered to Art As You Like It to be fired. Then, COVID-19 hit. The state shut down. We scrambled to figure out on-line worship and the kids were not able to have their First Communion.

As months went by, businesses closed including Art As You Like It. Gone were their chalices. The doors were locked and the lights off. The building was sold and converted into the Lincoln Center, a shelter for homeless. (Homeless Helping Homeless). One day when driving by, Patti saw lights on and pulled in to look for the lost chalices. A kind man allowed her to rummage through the storeroom, but our chalices were not there. While there Patti learned a lot about the Lincoln Center and the work they are doing for the homeless in the area.



Fast forward to today. A second of class of young people have gone through their First Communion class. Their chalices have been painted. Kids from last year's class were able to paint chalices, too. The chalices have been delivered to a business in Avon. These two classes will be taking their First Communion on

Maundy Thursday.

This year's First Class Participants

Dalton Bauer
Victoria Berkovich
Cali Klaverkamp
Breckette Lundrigan
Noah Philippi-Patino
Braydon Rock



Last year's First Class Participants

Evan Dingmann
Eli Grams
Logan Grams
Gabryel Meyer
Gavyn Meyer
Gradyn Meyer
Gage Reder
Alison Underhill



Kris Markfort Benefit

Stay tuned for ways you can help the Markfort family through some upcoming fundraising including a take-out spaghetti dinner on May 1.

Kris continues to recuperate from a stroke suffered last December.

Please continue to keep Kris and her family in your prayers.

Healing Haiti
Mission Trip
Oct. 18-25, 2021



Seeking up to 15 People for a Mission Trip!

Join Erik Hanson and Eric Falk as we travel to Haiti with Healing Haiti and experience an amazing culture and people. Serve and be Served. From delivering water in Cite Soleil to helping in orphanages and comforting sick children, team members will have the opportunity to make a real difference. Our trips are consistent with our values of coming alongside our Haitian brothers and sisters, and not doing for them what they can do for themselves but to serve and in doing so, be served. General info: Oct. 18-25, 2021, approximate cost \$1700/person (fundraising tips and assistance is available) includes all travel, food and lodging (Cost is dependent on flight cost). Keep an eye out for upcoming informational meetings. Interested? Contact Erik (erikhanson@hotmail.com) or Eric (ebfalk1@gmail.com)

COVID-19 vaccine: It's our turn to roll up our sleeves and get vaccinated!

It's hard to imagine a time when we didn't know COVID-19 existed. Now when people say "virus," we know what they mean. The impact of COVID-19 on our lives, our activities, and our freedom has affected us all. The responsibility is ours, as a community, to help stop this virus. Now we have a new, safe, and effective tool to help us do that—COVID-19 vaccines.

It takes everyone.

We all need to step up to beat COVID-19. We ask you to join us in protecting yourself, your family and friends, and our community by getting vaccinated.

Getting vaccinated adds an important layer of protection for you, your family, and loved ones. Here are some things you should know about the COVID-19 vaccine:

All COVID-19 vaccines currently available in the United States are very effective at preventing the disease.

The most common side effects are pain in the arm where you got the shot, feeling tired, headache, body aches, chills, and fever.

Stopping a pandemic requires using all the tools we have available—wearing masks, staying at least 6 feet apart from people who don't live with you, avoiding crowds and poorly ventilated spaces, washing your hands frequently, and **getting vaccinated**.

We want everyone in our community to be safe and get back to hugging our families and friends and shaking hands with our neighbors.

We all play a part in this effort, and you are key. Please sign up to get your COVID-19 vaccination.

The Minnesota COVID-19 Vaccine Connector helps Minnesotans find out when, where, and how to get their COVID-19 vaccine.

The tool connects Minnesotans to a vaccine opportunity near them — no matter where they live or their personal circumstances.

Signing up for the Vaccine Connector is easy, safe, and secure — and all Minnesotans should sign up, no matter their current eligibility status.

When Minnesotans become eligible, the Vaccine Connector will:
alert them of their eligibility
connect them to resources to schedule an appointment; and
notify them if there are vaccination opportunities in their area.

Sign up at:

mn.gov/vaccineconnector

By Phone:

Translation is available . If you are unable to sign up online, you can sign up over the phone. Translation is available by phone in all languages. Call: 833-431-2053.

If you have questions about the COVID-19 vaccine, visit CDC's FAQs web page: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/faq.html>.

Carolyn Neubauer, Parish Nurse

Carolyn@lwlcmn.org



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Email: church@lwlcmmn.org
Webpage: www.lwlcmmn.org

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LWLC Mission Statement

As followers of Jesus, we seek to reach, teach, and care for God's world as a welcoming and inclusive community.

IN-PERSON Worship



SIGNING UP FOR SUNDAY SERVICES

Signup Genius is used to reserve space at a worship service.

The sanctuary has been reconfigured to accommodate social distancing. The link is found on the church web site and once a week an email is sent out with the link to sign up. You will see slots with different groupings of chairs. Choose the size grouping that you will need.

Space is limited, so making your reservation earlier than later is suggested.

Link to signup genius:
<https://tinyurl.com/zf72f7wz>

4 WAYS YOU CAN ACCESS ONLINE WORSHIP:

- Go to the church's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/livingwaters.livingchurch
- Go to the church's web at www.lwlcmmn.org/online-worship
- Follow the LWLC YouTube Channel. Go to YouTube and search for *Living Waters Lutheran Church, Sauk Rapids, MN*
- Follow the links provided in the weekly email