

The Messenger – May 2022



“Empty pockets never held anyone back. It’s only empty hearts that do that.”
~Norman Vincent Peale

Financial facts for March 2022

Checkbook balance as of 3/31/2022:
\$40,626.00 (previous \$41,649.69)

The GivePlus' app through Vanco is expiring April 30. The new app for your mobile device or tablet is Vanco mobile. To set up new giving on your tablet or cell:

--Go to your device's app store and search for **Vanco Mobile**.

--See **Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement** app, click on **Get Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement**, click on **Install**, then **Open**.

--Under **Find your Church**, enter **Spring Garden Lutheran Church**.

--Click on **Sign Up**.

--Enter your name, email and create a password.

--You'll be emailed a confirmation code.

--Enter code as given.

--You're now set up to give. Click **Give**.

--You can now delete the **GivePlus'** app.

Text-to-give is not changing. It is still available and very simple:

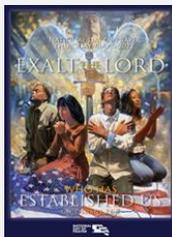
--On your cell, text **gift to church** or **\$XX** to our 10-digit code: **507-216-9276**.

--You will receive a secured link to complete your donation via a credit or debit card.

--It's that easy.

If you have set up a recurring gift through Church (Pam) or the **GivePlus'** app, that will continue. No action is needed unless you wish to make any changes. Setting up a new recurring gift through the above method may not delete the original recurring gift. You may contact Pam or Scott H. with questions.

Scott Hanson, Board Representative



EXALT THE LORD WHO HAS ESTABLISHED US.
COLOSSIANS 2:6-7 (NASB)

Please mark your calendars for this community prayer event!

What: 23rd Annual Prayer for the Cannon Valley in observance of the National Day of Prayer

When: Thursday Evening,
May 5, 2022, 6:30 pm

Where: St. Ansgars Lutheran
Church Sanctuary

Who: All are welcome to join us in prayer for our nation and our community!

Light refreshments will follow the service



QUILTING OPPORTUNITIES

The Afternoon Quilters will meet at 1:00 pm on Thursday, May 12.

The Baby Quilt Ministry will meet at 7:00 pm on Thursday, May 19.

Anyone is welcome to join one or both groups!



The next **Book Chatter** meeting will be on

Thursday, May 26th, at 7:00 pm, at the home of Pauline Nerison.

We will be discussing Where the Apricots Bloom by Gina Wilkinson.

Mark Your Calendars!



Midsommar is scheduled for Sunday, June 26, 2022.

Please watch the announcements and the June newsletter for more information.

Receipts for the month of April were \$21,158.00!! Way to go Spring Garden!! Thanks for submitting your receipts in support of the Cannon Valley Senior Center.



Nina

Cannon Falls Food Shelf Update

We had a very successful Food Shelf fundraiser. The total raised by our congregation was \$1,695! That is amazing!



Thank you for your support!

Brenda

From the Pastor.... Pastor Nick Fisher-Broin

Dear Friends,

By now you are all processing the news that our ministry will come to its close at Spring Garden in mid-June. We want to reiterate how much we have loved this call and hopefully you can see our almost 25 years as evidence of how much this community became home and family for us. But as we noted in our letter, this time to announce our retirement would have come before long under any circumstance. After all, we aren't getting any younger. It has been hastened somewhat because of health challenges for our aging parents and the needs of our children and grandchildren. For us, our change also feels like a calling from God to love and care for those in our family. We know you all understand that well and we deeply appreciate your understanding as we take leave to give time, energy and love to the needs of our closest family.

But, we are not done yet. This May, we would like to draw your attention to a three-week sermon series in worship. After 25 years, we have experienced a lot of history with you, we have shared a lot of ministry with you. We have experienced the dark night of the soul with you and we have seen the world with you. So, we have some observations about the future that we think might be useful to you so you can sail this blessed ship of faith strongly into the future. We invite you to join us for worship this coming May as we reflect on how together, God has blessed us for ministry and mission in our community and beyond.



The Ship of Faith: A Spring Garden Journey

Sunday May 1: "Old Lands: Where We Were"

Sunday May 8: "On the Seas of Ministry"

Sunday May 15: "The Future: Journey Over the Horizon"

We know that we'll have many conversations in the weeks to come—we know at times our hearts will be heavy. But we also know that the Risen Jesus Christ is our Captain and he has gone on before us on the seas of new life already, and he will be on the coming journey, too. Generations ago, the ancestors of this church left the old country, letting go of familiar faces, lands and the rhythm of life in Sweden for a new land and new possibilities in America. This journey continues in every generation when we embrace the new thing God can do with us when we follow God's call. Be at peace, dear friends, and follow Love's call, a Love that points always to the hope we have in Jesus. See you in worship.

Peace.

Pastor Nick



On April 12-13, severe weather made its way through southeastern Minnesota and surrounding areas. The city of Taopi, located in Mower County, was hit by an F2 tornado and suffered significant damage.

Aid for Taopi

How to support the city after tornado damage

Ashley Corbett -SE MN Synod

April 14, 2022

Today, Pastor Jeremy Johnson (of Little Cedar and Marshall Lutheran Churches in Adams) shared that the best way you can show your support is through financial donations. Those can be sent directly to United Farmers State Bank in Adams, where the city of Taopi has access to the funds to distribute as they see fit.

Pastor Johnson expressed significant gratitude for the support that has already poured in and also asks for continued prayers for the people whose homes and property have been damaged or destroyed. We lift up the city of Taopi, its citizens, friends, and family in our prayers during this difficult time.

United Farmers State Bank
PO Box 354
Adams, MN 55909



Southeastern Minnesota Synod
of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America





I recently participated in a zoom class on mental health concerns in the faith community. Today I am going to focus on just the mental illness portion of the class.

First of all, the definition of mental illness is a broad one. It is a wide range of conditions that affect mood thinking and behavior. The most common types are clinical depression, anxiety disorder, bipolar disorder, dementia, ADHD (attention deficit hyperactivity disorder), schizophrenia, obsessive compulsive disorder, autism, and PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder).

When you hear about someone or know someone with a mental illness, what

Mental Health

kind of thoughts does that illicit? There can be a stigma which views someone in a negative way, or discrimination which treats someone in a negative way. We may think of those who live with a mental illness as dangerous, afraid, weak, selfish, lazy, irrational, or that they caused their illness, but in fact we need to realize that they are courageous, determined, inspirational, and non-violent.

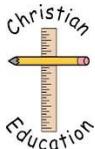
Harmful effects of this stigma/discrimination are that they may be reluctant to seek help, feel isolated, be bullied or harassed, or believe that the situation cannot be improved. What we can do is recognize the many causes of mental illness, focus on empathy, avoid blame, avoid "crazy" and other derogatory words, listen without judgement or offering advice, correct

those who gossip or are misinformed, treat them with compassion, not pity, offer practical help, talk about God's unconditional love, pray for hope, and suggest that they contact NAMI which is the National Alliance on Mental Illness. Their helpline number is: 1-800-950-6264.

Blessings,

Yvonne Salmonson,
RN, Parish Nurse

Faith is Facing All I Trust Him.



Seder Meal, New Faith Formation Board, Sundae Fun Day, Vacation Bible School

The Seder Meal was held on Wednesday, April 13th. There were 42 people who attended this year's meal. Thank you to Tim and Heidi Anderson, Megan Nerison, and Sue Safe for serving the meal, and all of the youth who helped them serve the meal. Congratulations to all of our Spring Garden youngsters who were part of the Seder Meal and have received Communion for the first time!

Some changes will be happening soon with the Youth Board and the Christian Education Board. The new constitution that was accepted in January of 2022 included combing both boards into one board, the Faith Formation Board. The objectives of this board are to "plan and administer the total educational program of the congregation for life-long spiritual growth in the Lutheran Faith with emphasis in the area of children and youth in the congregation, to select and vet the personnel for the various programs, to involve the young people of the congregation in the work of Christ, to promote opportunities for genuine Christian fellowship and service for the young people of the congregation, to

determine policies to accomplish these objectives, and to provide the necessary means and facilities to support these programs". This change will take effect in June. More information will become available soon. If you are interested in getting involved, you can call or email the church office to let Rachel know and she will get the information to us.

The last day of Sunday school is May 15th! We will celebrate on the last day with a Sundae Fun Day!

Keep an eye out for Vacation Bible School information. It will again be in partnership with Urland and will be held at Urland this year. If you are interested in helping with VBS reach out to Maggie Wilson.

Last, we just wanted to say thank you for sharing your kids with us Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings. It has been a lot of fun this year to be able to have the kids at church in person.

Thank you,

The Christian Education Board
Becky Haugen, Chair
Maggie Wilson, Sunday School Superintendent



Spring Garden Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes April 7, 2022

In Attendance: Brian Lindahl, Stan Lundell, Scott Hanson, Cindy Sjoquist, Becky Haugen, Christy Collins, Randy Benson, Pastors Nick & Cindy Fisher-Broin, Treasurer–Rob Lorentz, and Parish Nurse-Yvonne Salmonson

Call to Order: President Brian called the meeting to order at 7:09 pm in the church social hall. Opening prayer was given by Pastor Cindy.

Bible Study: Pastor Nick led a Bible study discussion on Holy Week.

Secretary's Report: A motion was made by Scott Hanson, seconded by Randy and carried to approve the minutes of the March 3rd council meeting.

Financial Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports: Pam's report as of March 31st showed a total of \$39,632.00 in pledges year-to-date. Rob's report showed that the checkbook balance as of March 31st was \$40,626.00. A motion was made by Scott Hanson, seconded by Cindy, and carried to approve the financial reports.

Parish Nurse Report: Yvonne's report for the period 3/3 – 4/7 included 14 visits, 6 phone calls, 14 texts, 22 hours, and 130 miles. She attended a symposium via Zoom on Mental Health Concerns. She also wrote an article for the April newsletter.

Action Items:

- 1) **Church Sign:** Randy estimated that the cost for a new sign designed as we had previously chosen would be in the \$17,000 - \$18,000 range plus some wiring and permit costs. He said that there are individuals that have indicated that they are willing to contribute funds above what funds have already been designated for a new sign. A motion was made by Scott Hanson, seconded by Becky and carried to recommend approval of a new church sign to the congregation at the April 24th congregational meeting.
- 2) **Set Agenda for the April 24th Congregational Meetings:** The agenda will include the election, approval of a new church sign, an update on the sidewalk project, and any other old and new business.
- 3) **New Shelter Chairs and Picnic Tables:** Randy indicated that the metal framed stackable style of chairs for the shelter that we had picked out last year were not available then. He mentioned that chairs of that design have a lower weight capacity than stackable plastic chairs in a style similar to what we previously had. The plastic chairs are about \$30.00 each which is also less expensive than the other style. A motion was made by Stan, seconded by Scott Hanson and carried to purchase 30 stackable plastic chairs.

One of the picnic tables is broken and some of the other picnic tables are beginning to show deterioration. Purchasing picnic tables was tabled until our meeting next month to give Randy additional time to assess the condition of the rest of the picnic tables.
- 4) **Acceptance of New Members:** A motion was made by Stan, seconded by Randy and carried to accept the following new members to the congregation: *Jim Daniels, Martha Norstad, (Ryan & Jessica Gird – Madeline Siebenaler, Carrie Siebenaler, Dylan Gird, Mason Ohnstad), (Marcia Anderson – Westin, Amalia, Malory), and Lowell & Kate Peterson.*
- 5) **Church Calendar Review:** Nothing new added.

Pastors' Report: Pastors Nick & Cindy gave their report.

Board and Committee Reports

Worship and Music–Cindy Sjoquist: Easter Flowers are ordered. They have done Altar care training. They have planned the Holy Week services.

Evangelism– Nothing new to report.

Christian Education–Becky Haugen: Becky will be teaching the 3rd Communion instruction class for Pastor Cindy. The Seder meal will be next Wednesday evening with around 35 planning to attend that. There will be no Sunday School on Easter. The last day of Sunday School will be May 15th. Vacation Bible School planning hopefully will begin soon with Urland.

Youth Ministry–Monica Erickson: They are getting ready for the Easter breakfast. They will be picking up flowers the first week of May.

Congregational Life: Nothing new to report.

Church Property–Randy Benson: Randy has been working on the sign project. He purchased a slide clicker that will make it easier for the PowerPoint volunteer. He also cleaned the shelter and cleaned the landscaping out front.

Continued on next page...

April 7, 2022 Council Minutes continued...

Stewardship—*Scott Hanson*: Nothing new to report.

Missions Board—*Christy Collins*: They raised \$1695.00 for the Food Shelf during March. They are planning on collaborating with the St. Paul Synod for future mission trips to Guatemala by creating a PowerPoint presentation on our mission trips there.

Executive Committee: Nothing new to report.

Archives Committee: Nothing new to report.

Mission Endowment Fund Committee: Nothing new to report.

Announcements:

- Next council meeting: May 5th
- Pam's Helper: April – Scott Safe; May – Scott Hanson; June – Stan
- Closing prayer next month: Scott Hanson

Adjournment: The closing prayer was given by Christy. A motion was made by Scott Hanson, seconded by Randy and carried to adjourn at 9:03 pm.

Stan Lundell, Secretary

Subject to Approval

Spring Garden Lutheran Church Special Council Meeting Minutes April 19, 2022

In Attendance: Brian Lindahl, Scott Safe, Stan Lundell, Cindy Sjoquist, Becky Haugen, Christy Collins, Randy Benson, Monica Erickson, Pastors Nick & Cindy Fisher-Broin, Treasurer—Rob Lorentz, Parish Nurse—Yvonne Salmonson, and Pastor Barb Streed from the SE MN Synod office

Call to Order: President Brian called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm in the church social hall. Opening prayer was given by Pastor Nick.

Action Items:

- 1) An update was given on Ruthann's injury. She had surgery on her broken arm today. Yvonne thought that her recovery time would be at least six to eight weeks and that it all depends on how quickly the healing process goes for her. Conor Salmonson may be able to fill in for Ruthann on May 8th. Pastor Cindy will also continue to fill in for her. Pastors Nick and Cindy have a supply pastor and someone to fill in for Ruthann on May 22nd. They will be gone that weekend for Jonah's wedding.
- 2) Pastors Nick & Cindy announced that after almost twenty-five years of ministry here, they will be retiring as our pastors on June 15th. Their last Sunday will be on June 12th. They cited that the health of their parents has been declining and that they want and need to spend more time with their parents. They think that in fairness to the congregation, they would be split in too many directions if they continued as our pastors. They think that we need pastoral leadership that can stay focused on serving the congregation.

Pastor Barb Streed led the council in prayer. She then gave each of us a "Call Process Manual" that describes the process that should be followed before we are ready to call another pastor. She suggested that first we plan a celebration for Pastors Nick & Cindy on June 12th, their last Sunday.

She suggested that we hire an interim pastor to take care of our ministry needs through the transition period, the period between the retirement of Pastors Nick & Cindy and the calling of a new pastor. She asked if we wanted the Synod office to help us find an interim pastor. A motion was made by Randy, seconded by Scott safe and carried to work with the Office of the Bishop to source an interim pastor.

She suggested that we use pulpit supply pastors for the last two Sundays in June. Pastor Barb Streed will fill in on June 19th, and Pastor Nancy Dreier will fill in on June 26th which is the date of our Midsommar celebration. Tentatively, we would like to have an interim pastor ready to start July 1st.

Adjournment: A motion was made by Cindy, seconded by Scott Safe and carried to adjourn at 8:49 pm.

Stan Lundell, Secretary

Subject to Approval

The Messenger
Spring Garden Lutheran Church
May 2022



"Building a Rural Family in Christ"

Church Council Members & Staff

President	Brian Lindahl	
Vice-President	Scott Safe	
Secretary	Stan Lundell	651-764-1623
Treasurer	Rob Lorentz	507-263-2384
Financial Secretary	Pam Davis	507-263-5657
Worship & Music	Cindy Sjoquist	651-380-3547
Evangelism		
Christian Education	Becky Haugen	507-421-2964
Youth Ministry	Monica Erickson	507-263-7299
Congregational Life		
Church Property	Randy Benson	507-649-2503
Stewardship	Scott Hanson	612-221-6933
Missions Board	Christy Collins	
Music Director	Ruthann Ritchie	
Parish Nurse	Yvonne Salmonson	507-951-7921
Custodian	Sue Safe	651-258-4619
Administrative Asst.	Rachel Benson	507-263-5532
Pastors Nick & Cindy Fisher-Broin		507-824-3216
P. Nick's Cell: 507-298-0416		P. Cindy's Cell: 507-298-0415

Spring Garden Lutheran Church

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