

The Messenger – May 2023



Welcome to Spring Garden!

David Roinas comes to the Minnesota, and now the Spring Garden area after 8 1/2 years (from 2012-2020) at Holden Village, a Lutheran retreat center in a remote location of the Cascade Mountains of Washington. Holden Village was a copper mine town before it was donated to the Lutheran church around sixty years ago. There he served mostly in the business office as the accountant lead, but also supported registration and store operations, and was active in the daily worship services as musician, participant, and collecting of the offerings for the weekly eucharist service on Sunday. Along with job duties, all villagers help with dish team and garbology and David served as a dish team captain. While at Holden, he did online education working first on his associate degree in accounting and then his bachelor's degree in accounting, finishing December of 2017 and graduating in May of 2018.

Plans were to get married in 2020 at Holden Village, but those plans were cancelled when Holden closed because of Covid. The wedding was still held down by the lake in Chelan, with only four guests in attendance but many watching from afar. David would then travel across the

country to Minnesota, where his plans were to settle, find work, and then bring the rest of the family to Minnesota later that September before school started. The family now lives in the Como Lake area of St. Paul, Minnesota, where David works in the Minneapolis Area Synod as bookkeeper for St. John's Lutheran in Minneapolis and in the St. Paul Area Synod for the Synod Office as Financial Administrator. His jobs at Spring Garden put him in three ELCA Synods in Minnesota. Nico is a college student in Renton, Washington, and Adi is a junior at Como High School, active in track and field, swimming, and cross country. Daniele works for St. Anthony Park Homes.

Outside of music, another passion is volunteering. David has led the food pavilion operations at a two-day festival in his hometown of Creston, Illinois for the last fifteen years traveling back the years he lived in Washington and the last two from Minnesota. He is a collector of BACON themed t-shirts and his collection reached 70 t-shirts in 2020. He is a lover of ice cream and often visits Conny's Creamy Cone in St. Paul during their season.

David has been active in music since a young age, participating in choirs and bands through high school as bass singer and trumpet player, started piano lessons in the third grade, and organ lessons as a freshman in high school.

David is thankful for the opportunity to lead services as organist and direct the adult choir and participate in the ministry that is Spring Garden Lutheran Church.

Our Midsommar Celebration is Coming Soon!

Please start thinking about how you can support this amazing Spring Garden Lutheran Church tradition! Midsummer will be on Sunday, June 25th.

Help is needed to set-up, prepare food, serve, host children's games, and clean-up afterwards.

Many hands make for light work.

Consider volunteering for one of the many opportunities as a family.

This is a great way to get to know your fellow congregants. We promise it is more fun than it is work.

Online signups and signup sheets will be available in May.



Thank you!
Parish Life



Dear Partners...Pastor Tim McDermott

Dear Partners,

A monk from Big Sur, California, was asked recently, “Do you think there is a future for your way of life?” Imagine receiving such a question. Is there a future for a nearly 2000-year-old tradition and practice in 2023 and beyond? The questioner might well have asked, “Does not your insistence on the practice of poverty, chastity, and obedience (monastic vows) all while living in a remote, communal setting make you irrelevant to modern life and needs?”

“Do you think there is a future for your way of life?”

I think that the monk’s answer is instructive. He said, “The Camaldolese (the group of monks he belongs to) are ready to evolve and grow with the living Church.”

Two points deserve emphasis.

First, he said that in his monastic community (the New Camaldoli Hermitage of Big Sur, California) we “are ready to evolve and grow.”

Whatever difficulties the church in North America was facing before March 2020, the stakes and challenges are greater now (since Covid 19). As endangered as the church (in its local, national, and global expressions) was before the Corona Virus, the stakes are much higher now. I submit that if the church in all its expressions is unwilling to evolve and grow, it may just find itself irrelevant in a post-Covid society. Now is the time, the time to evolve and grow.

The second point to notice in the monk’s response is that we must be ready “to evolve and grow *with* the living church.” Notice, he did not say evolve and grow with changes in society. There have been wonderful societal changes in recent decades that mirror closely the commitments of the church. We celebrate those changes. But the church does not take its cues from society or from its legislative bodies. The church has a calling. It answers to the Lord of the church—Jesus Christ. The local congregation trying to evolve and grow takes its cues from Jesus. Which begs the question: Where is Jesus leading this church? How does Jesus need us to change so that the body of Christ (the church) will continue to be the voice of Jesus addressing questions of salvation, forgiveness, spiritual growth, welcoming, inclusion, justice, peacemaking, and harmony in the society in which it finds itself?

Transformation is not easy. Adhering to the tried and true is easier. Holding on to the familiar because it is less disruptive is always a temptation. But this is not the future of North American Christianity. It is not the future of Spring Garden Lutheran Church. Like the monks of Big Sur, we can, we must, we will continue “to evolve and grow with the living Church.”

What can you do in this time of major transition for congregations in America and for Spring Garden? Please pray for your leaders. Please speak your truth about how this congregation can and must continue to be “A Rural Family in Christ.” And if asked to serve in any servant or leadership capacity within our congregation, say “Yes.” Yes, to Spring Garden and Yes, to Jesus Christ. Like so many of you, I am so optimistic about the future of this church. Thanks for all you do to make Spring Garden strong.

Your Partner in the Gospel,

Pastor Tim



QUILTING OPPORTUNITIES

**The Afternoon Quilters will meet at
1:00 pm on
Thursday, May 11.**

**The Baby Quilt Ministry will meet at
7:00 pm on
Thursday, May 18.**

**Anyone is welcome to join one or
both groups!**

Call Committee Update

The Spring Garden Call Committee met with Pastor Barb Streed for a training session and has had some organizational meetings.

The Synod sent profiles for five potential candidates. First round interviews are being set up with all five of the candidates.

As Pastor Barb mentioned to the congregation, the Call Committee must maintain confidentiality and cannot share the names or any other information about the candidates.

Please continue to keep Spring Garden Church and the Call Committee in your prayers as we make this important decision.



The 5th Grade Holy Communion Class finished their Communion Instruction Classes and participated in a Seder Meal with family and friends on April 5, 2023.

Front Row L to R: Mason Ohnstad, Lila Olson, Michael Goplen, Kason Lindahl.
Back Row L to R: Lily Hovel, Karina Jandro, Lydia Samuelson and Carter Koppmann.



Faith Formation



Palm Sunday!



Special thanks to Marcia Dicke, Josh Olson, and Kelly Koppmann for helping and teaching Sunday School! We have a great bunch of kids who made it a great year! Keep an eye out for Vacation Bible School information in the mailer. Happy Summer!

Thank you also to Ruthie Sjoblom for leading the Youth Choir this year!

Last Day of Sunday School and Senior Recognition and Scholarship Sunday

The last day of Sunday School will be **Sunday, May 14th.**

The Youth Choir and the Adult Choir will be combining to sing some familiar songs!

Our High School Seniors will be recognized during the worship service and the High School and College Scholarships will be awarded.

Spring Garden Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes April 13, 2023

In Attendance: Scott Safe, Bjorn Olson, Stan Lundell, Heidi Anderson, Ruthie Sjoblom, Becky Haugen, Scott Hanson, Christy Collins, Randy Benson, Pastor Tim, Financial Secretary–Pam Davis, and Treasurer–Rob Lorentz

Call to Order: President Scott Safe called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm in the church social hall. An opening prayer was given by Pastor Tim.

Pastor Tim led a Bible study on how Jesus prayed. Jesus prayed in public, and he also prayed in private. He was persistent in prayer. Jesus prayed for his friends, and he also prayed for his enemies.

Pastor Tim suggested that the council develop a plan to engage the congregation in prayer throughout the call process. The council will begin to develop a plan for engaging the congregation in prayer at the May council meeting.

Secretary's Report: A motion was made by Randy, seconded by Heidi and carried to approve the minutes of the March 2nd council meeting.

Financial Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports: Pam's report as of March 31st showed a total of \$ 40,127.00 in pledges year-to-date. Rob's report showed that the checkbook balance as of March 31st was \$45,353.51. A motion was made by Randy, seconded by Scott Hanson and carried to approve the financial reports.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Tim reported that he is beginning to work on three special worship events; the worship service for the recognition of our graduating seniors, the Midsommar worship service, and he is looking ahead to start planning for the welcoming of our new Pastor on his/her first Sunday at Spring Garden.

Action Items:

- 1) **Set Agenda for the April 23rd Congregational Meeting:** The agenda will include the election to the council, a Vice President, a Faith Formation Board member, and a Missions Board member. Two members will be elected to the Mission Endowment Fund Committee and a member will be elected to the Nominating Committee. Also on the agenda will be discussion on developing a job description that fits our needs for a Parish Nurse.
- 2) **Delegates Needed for the Synod Assembly May 6th - Mankato:** Don and Dorothy Anderson, elected delegates, are regretfully unable to attend the Synod Assembly. We are looking for two members to represent Spring Garden for that event.
- 3) **Midsommar June 25th:** President Scott has started trying to get in contact with Vasa to begin planning the Midsommar celebration. Heidi has already secured the date with Nick's Diner for catering the food, and she has also begun to secure the rental of tents, tables, and chairs for that event.
- 4) **Church Calendar Review:** Nothing new to report.

Board and Committee Reports

Worship & Music–Ruthie Sjoblom: They met on March 12th and planned the hymn selections through April 16th.

They also met on March 27th to plan the lay schedule through August 6th.

They plan on meeting on Sunday April 16th to select hymns for the next few Sundays.

Faith Formation–Becky Haugen: The Seder Meal was well attended. 8 youth and 26 guests attended.

The youth served breakfast Easter morning..

The last day of confirmation will be May 3rd. The last day of Sunday School will be May 14th.

Recognition Sunday for the graduating high school seniors will be May 14th.

Vacation Bible School is still being planned.

The youth will be getting together to make plans for some summer activities.

Parish Life & Outreach–Heidi Anderson: Planning for Midsommar has started.

Church Property–Randy Benson: Randy installed a faucet sprayer attachment on one of the kitchen sinks.

We had a roof leak in the upstairs bathroom due to an ice-dam buildup on the roof.

The elevator recently passed an inspection.

Anderson Construction installed a new window in the classroom above the elevator.

The "Entryway Remodel Project Committee" will be getting back together again to develop suggestions for remodeling the entryway.

Continued on next page...

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

Missions Board—*Christy Collins*: Missions is still looking for someone to represent Spring Garden for Habitat for Humanity. We are obtaining a description of the role, and are looking for an individual that would be interested in representing Spring Garden.

We have an official Guatemala team for our return trip in January 2024: *Christy Collins, RN; Bekki Bakken, RN; Katie Sjoblom, RN; Allie Ronningen, RN; Abby Collins, RN; Josie Hayes, RN, NP; Tessa Barnes, RN; Karen Barnes; Megan Nerison, Julie Magalis, Maria Salmonson, Anne Pagel, Michele Lindell, and Jada Lindell*. We have one spot available that we will be leaving open for our new Pastor in case he/she wants to travel with us, or unless somebody else comes forward with a desire to go.

Executive Committee: Nothing new to report.

Archives Committee: Nothing new to report.

Mission Endowment Fund Committee: They will be meeting on April 17th.

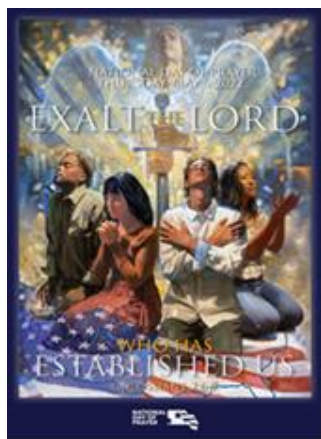
Announcements:

- Next council meeting: May 4th @ 6:00 pm
- Closing prayer next month: Scott Hanson
- Pam's Helper: April – Randy; May – Scott Hanson; June – Bjorn

Adjournment: The closing prayer that was given by Randy. A motion was made by Becky, seconded by Bjorn and carried to adjourn at 7:12 pm.

Stan Lundell, Secretary

Subject to Approval



**PRAY FERVENTLY IN RIGHTEOUSNESS
(JAMES 5:16B)**

Please mark your calendars for this community prayer event!

What: 24th Annual Prayer for the Cannon Valley in observance of the National Day of Prayer

When: Thursday Evening, May 4, 2023, 6:30 pm

Where: St. Ansgars Lutheran Church Sanctuary

Who: All are welcome to join us as we pray for our nation and our

Light refreshments will follow the service.

The Messenger
Spring Garden Lutheran Church
May 2023



"Building a Rural Family in Christ"

Church Council Members & Staff

Pastor Tim McDermott		507-649-7014 tmacmn@outlook.com
President	Scott Safe	651-380-8797
Vice-President	Bjorn Olson	612-695-1361
Secretary	Stan Lundell	651-764-1623
Treasurer	Rob Lorentz	507-263-2384
Financial Secretary	Pam Davis	507-263-5657
Worship & Music	Ruthie Sjoblom	651-428-6171
Faith Formation	Becky Haugen	507-421-2964
Parish Life & Outreach	Heidi Anderson	612-961-1142
Church Property	Randy Benson	507-649-2503
Stewardship	Scott Hanson	612-221-6933
Missions Board	Christy Collins	507-202-5993
Custodian	Sue Safe	651-258-4619
Administrative Asst.	Rachel Benson	507-263-5532

Spring Garden Lutheran Church

P.O. Box 237

Cannon Falls, MN 55009

Phone: 507-263-5532

E-mail: springgardenchurch@frontiernet.net

Website: www.spring-garden.org

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