



# The Messenger – October 2024



## Swing Set Update

- Met with Rainbow Playsystem representative on Friday, September 13.
- Safety regulations now require a swing set to be separate from PlaySystem
- Playground footprint would need to be doubled
- Considering 1 bay swing set with cantilever plus Playsystem
- Decision was made to go with metal and plastic instead of cedar



**Fundraiser Goal — \$20,000; Currently have — \$ 7,500 pledges (\$ 2,500 in hand)**

### Objectives

Collect total amount soon— secure pricing, place order, product ship this fall, and we install after harvest time.

Collect total by year end— secure pricing, place order, product ships in the spring, and we install in the spring.

- You can donate to the fundraiser by check — just note Swing Set Fundraiser in memo.
- You can donate online as well using Vanco.

### Checkbook Balances

July 31, 2024:  
\$32 889.43  
August 31, 2024:  
\$50,531.06

**It's "T" Time!**

**Confirmation Sunday is Sunday, October 27th!**

**Congratulations to Spring Garden's 2024 Confirmands!**

*Dylan Gird  
Lucy Lindahl  
Lukas Olson*

### QUILTING OPPORTUNITIES

The **Afternoon Quilters** will meet at 1 pm on Thursday, October 10th.

The **Baby Quilt Ministry** will meet at 7 pm on Monday, October 21st.



**Daylight Savings Time Ends Sunday, November 3rd!**

### Book Chatter

The next meeting will be on Thursday, November 14th, at 7:00 pm, at the home of Carol Anderson.

They will be discussing The Echo of Old Books by Barbara Davis.

### Feed My Starving Children

- **Cannon Falls Packing Event: Saturday, November 9<sup>th</sup> at Cannon Falls High School**
- Unloading and set up in the afternoon on Friday, November 8<sup>th</sup>.
- \$106 feeds one child for a year.
- 500 volunteers are needed to pack 101,088 meals.
- Partnering church registration begins September 25<sup>th</sup>. Register and donate using the QR code or by going online to: [www.fmssc.org/CannonFalls](http://www.fmssc.org/CannonFalls).



**Make sure to enter our church name and use the code CFFMSC.**

- A signup sheet will be circulated during our worship services. If you prefer, you can fill out the sheet and we will register for you.
- Our goal for the Cannon Falls Event is \$30,000. Last year, Spring Garden donated over \$3,000.
- Donations can be made by check to Spring Garden Church. Put FMSC on the memo line.
- If you have any questions, or need help registering or donating, please call Val Haggstrom (507-319-5650) or Jeanne Daniels (651-380-2537).

**A "Noisy Offering" will be collected every Sunday during the Children's Message. Don't forget to bring your change!**

## From the Pastor...

“Come Before Winter” is a sermon that Rev. Clarence McCartney preached about this time of year in 1905. He preached it every year for 40 years. Pastor John Wogsland, my internship supervisor, preached it for over 20 years and he gave it to me in 1995, and I would like to share an abbreviated version with you today.

Our story begins with the Apostle Paul and his student Timothy. Timothy was a young pastor at Ephesus. When Paul had been stoned at Lystra and dragged out of the city, left for dead, it was Timothy who went out and found the bleeding Paul, dressed his wounds, gave him food, drink, and shelter. When friendships are formed in adversity, hardship, trouble, or suffering those human hearts weld together to become friends forever. Paul affectionately referred to Timothy as “My son in the faith.”

In his second letter to Timothy we read, “The time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith... Do your best to come to me soon...Do your best to come before winter.” Before winter or never! Why before winter? Because in those days when winter set in, travel on the Mediterranean Sea shut down. So, if Timothy waited until winter, he would have to wait until spring. Paul felt that he would not last out the winter. He believed that before the end of winter he would be executed. Hopefully Timothy didn’t waste any time. Hopefully, he sailed to Rome; he found Paul; they visited; brought greetings from the friends and family; read to Paul from the scriptures; wrote the last letters; and, finally, walked with him to the place where Paul was executed. So, it had to be before winter or never!

There are some things, which are never done unless they are done before winter. We plant our spring bulbs, we put up storm windows, we have the furnace checked, mow the lawn one last time, we clean up the yard, and experience the beauty of the leaves of autumn for the time is short. There are windows of opportunity that present themselves, but once, and then they are gone!

This is true when it comes to relationships. I remember the weekend I traveled back to Roland to see Pastor John. He had been diagnosed with a brain tumor and had asked me to come and see him. We had a great visit. We talked about our friends, about the ministry we did together, and about my future ministry. We celebrated communion and prayed together. We had a terrific visit. Five days later, John died. Often, it is now or never.

“Come before winter” is about high tides and golden gates of opportunity. There are people we love who will pass from this life before spring. We don’t know who they will be: parent, spouse, children, friends, neighbors, classmates. As winter comes and goes, so do life’s opportunities. “Come before winter” is a message for each of us. The opportunity to be in touch, to say what we feel, to be fully alive with one another. Unless we act, the moment passes, and that moment may never return again.

Is there a family member to whom you have not said, “I love you”? Or a dear friend to whom a “thank you” has been missing? Or a glorious sunset that begs to be watched? Before we know it, winter has come, and the moment is gone, the person is gone, the opportunity is closed, and we berate ourselves for what we wished we had done. John Greenleaf Whittier wrote, “For all sad words of tongue and pen--the saddest are these: ‘What might have been.’” Each day, there are voices, calling to us, “Come before winter... Tomorrow will be too late!”

What a remarkable season autumn is! It is remarkable in both its beauty and its brevity. All too soon beautifully colored leaves fall and blow away and only the branches remain, stripped bare. Autumn is a parable of life’s opportunities. This week the climax of beauty. Next week the branches are bare. This week opportunity to be with a friend. Next week she is gone. The chance never comes again. Today my child needs me. If I say I’m too busy, will my child turn to me when she needs me tomorrow? Each day, there are voices calling to us, saying, “Come before winter!” They are the voices of children, the elderly, the lonely, the hungry, the sick, the homeless, the unemployed.

The voice of love calling, “Come before winter.” From the diary of Thomas Carlyle, we read tragic words as he mourned the death of his wife, “Oh, that I had you yet for five minutes by my side, that I might tell you all.” For forty years he had her at his side but kept putting off until another time what now he wished he had said. For us he wrote, “Cherish what is dearest, while you have it near you and do not wait until it is far away.”

Are you ignoring time? Are you letting miserable misunderstandings run on from year to year? Are you keeping wretched quarrels alive? Do you not speak to certain people out of spite or pain? Are you letting a family member or friend’s heartache for a word of friendship, love, or appreciation? If only you could see and feel and know that the time is short. Go instantly and do the thing you might never have another chance to do. “Come before winter.”

Now is the time to build a life that is worth living.

Now is the time to do that thing you’ve been putting off.

Now is the time to show love, appreciation, and forgiveness to friends and family.

Come before your heart grows cold.

Come before desire has failed.

Come before life is over.

Come before winter! Come before winter.

Amen.



## Faith Formation – Sunday School and Confirmation Information

We have kicked off another year of Sunday School and Confirmation!

We are looking forward to a great year with the kids!

**We are still in need of Sunday School teachers.** You do not have to commit to every Sunday a month. We will work with your availability. Contact Maggie Wilson to volunteer.

**Confirmation Parents, please sign up for acolyting and lay assisting.** Confirmation students who do not sign up to participate will be assigned to open Sundays.



## Volunteer Opportunity!

Hello Spring Garden,

As you know our youth meet for confirmation classes every Wed. Night. Last year we started serving a meal once a month with the intention that kids and their families could eat at church. The confirmation kids enjoyed this time. This year our goal is to provide 2 meals a month. Currently, the leaders team provides the food the 2nd Wed. This is where you the congregation come in.

**We are looking for volunteers that would like to help in any capacity to assist for the 4th Wed of the month. If you would like to see the energy of a full basement, get to know the youth, and enjoy a meal with them we need you.**

What we are looking for: 2-3 people/ month (4th Wed night). Your group can either: 1. Make something(s) to serve, 2. Bring (buy) somethings to serve, or 3. Have us plan the meal and get the food up to church for you to prep/serve.

**What it entails?**

Prepare (at home or church) and serve the food and then clean up while the kids break into their groups.

**What do youth eat for Meals?**

We try to keep it simple. Usually, a main item and a fruit and veggie. \*Drink mixes are up at church along with silverware, cups, and plates. We can suggest foods we already know the group likes if you need.

**When and What time?**

4th Wed of the month around 6pm at church.

Please reach out to Pastor Tim if you can help to sign up for a date.

Thank you!

The Confirmation Team



## Archive Committee Update

“God dag” (pronounced ‘good dahg’) is Swedish for Good day – the most straightforward and widely used way to greet someone anytime during the day. The Spring Garden Archivists thought it was time to teach some language skills used in countries marked on the world map found in the Archive Room. Expect more words/phrases in future newsletter articles.



What with the hot days of summer, family activities, vacations, and outside services, the archive committee has been on hiatus for several months. Now that Fall is upon us, the committee will once again collect, clean, and collate more architectural items found around the church. Be alert to displays in the archive room – look for the open doors inviting you to visit.

The committee takes this opportunity to thank those who during the Midsummer Fest visited the log cabin. A display of pictures showing the various additions and different views of the church building over the

decades was provided. It shows once again that the original log cabin, which was also a meeting place for church services in the 1850’s, still has a useful purpose today. Mention was made during that open house how appropriate it would be to display some original furniture from that era to make it even more realistic – anyone have some suggestions?



## Spring Garden Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes September 9, 2024

**In Attendance:** Paul Olson, Jay Olson, Ruthie Sjoblom, Maggie Wilson, Steve Haggstrom, Lynnette Sjoquist, Christy Collins, Pastor Tim, Financial Secretary – Pam Davis, and Treasurer – Rob Lorentz

**Call to Order:** Vice-President Paul Olson called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. in the church social hall. Opening devotions were given by Pastor Tim.

**Secretary's Report:** A motion was made by Steve, seconded by Ruthie, and carried to approve the minutes of the August 4, 2024, council meeting.

**Financial Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports:** Pam's report showed a total of \$134,680.38 in pledges through August 31, 2024. Rob's report showed that the checkbook balance on August 31, 2024, was \$50,531.06. A motion was made by Lynnette, seconded by Maggie, and carried to approve the financial reports.

### **Pastor Tim's Report:**

God's Work Our Hands: As I mentioned at our last meeting, God's Work, Our Hands (GWOH) will be October 6. At this time we need to discover together projects that we can do as a community. I will be meeting with the pastors of St. Ansgar's, First Lutheran, and Cross of Christ to plan an area Lutheran worship service and which will then lead to sending everyone out to do GWOH service projects.

Worship: I am looking forward to returning to our regular indoor worship schedule. On September 8 the worship committee will have planned the December to February worship services.

Confirmation: Confirmation orientation will be September 11th. At this time we will go over the confirmation handbook as a large group and then each grade level will discuss what they will be doing in the coming year. This is a meeting for parents and students.

Adult Education: We continue our study of the book of Luke and Acts. I am a little disappointed at the participation level for our Sunday morning class. I'm wondering if church council has suggestions for other times to do an adult study. I am very open to suggestions that might work better

Pastoral Calls: In August, I made 7 pastoral calls.

Reminder of Pastor 2024 Vacation Dates: September 10-17, December 26-December 31 (Back to the office January 3)

### **Action Items:**

- 1) God's Work, Our Hands: Pastor Tim met with Pastor Luke and Pastor Kira on September 9, 2024. Each congregation will hold their own worship services. Pastor Tim stated that he intends to hold a short service before having the congregation break into various service projects. Various service project ideas were suggested, including cleaning the church grounds and cemetery, contributing to Jonathan House, and asking the congregation for project proposals/requests. Pastor Tim stated that he was going to put a request for suggestions in the bulletin and write up a final plan.
- 2) Estate Planning and End-of-Life Seminar: The Estate Planning and End-of-Life Seminar is scheduled for September 19, 2024, at 5:15 p.m. at The Grand O2 Event Center in Cannon Falls. Maggie reported that she had posted information about the event on the Cannon Falls Area Chamber of Commerce Facebook page and in the Chamber newsletter.
- 3) Confirmation Handbook: Pastor Tim reported that the confirmation handbook has been completed and is ready for distribution to the confirmation students.
- 4) 2024 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Guatemala Gala gift from Spring Garden: Spring Garden traditionally donates \$1,000 to the Guatemala Gala every year. A motion was made by Ruthie, seconded by Lynnette, and carried to donate \$1,500 from the undesignated memorial fund to the Guatemala Gala this year.
- 5) Approval of Transfers for Congregational Expenses: A motion was made by Ruthie, seconded by Maggie, and carried to transfer:  
1) \$817.14 from Thrivent Choice account to pay for Bibles and Sunday School materials; 2) \$761.29 from the accumulated interest on the Improvement Fund account to pay for the new outdoor sound system; and 3) \$750.00 from Building and Property account to pay for restriping the parking lot.

### **Board and Committee Reports**

#### **Worship & Music–Ruthie Sjoblom:**

The Worship and Music Board met on Sunday, September 8. Service planning was done for December, January and February. Beginning October 13, we will begin to include the words for the hymns in the PowerPoints as has been done in the past. Decorating the church will take place on November 24, followed by a meal (TBD) and an afternoon piano/violin duo concert beginning at 1:30 pm by “Weber/St John” from White Bear Lake. Area churches will be invited. More information to come as

*Continued on next page...*



*September 9, 2024 Council Minutes continued...*

we firm up plans for the day. We are planning an event, Christmas Carols at the Cabin (or some other name TBD) on Sunday, December 22. More information to come. We are continuing to look for altar care coverage for the month of December, including the 10:00 pm Christmas Eve service. In Pastor Tim's absence on Sunday, September 15, Pastor Nancy Dreier will lead the service. In David's absence on Sunday, September 15, his sister, Cathy will accompany at the service. The Board will meet on Sunday, November 17 to continue with planning for December 22 and any other needs for services.

**Faith Formation–Maggie Wilson:** Sunday school kickoff is September 15th. Confirmation begins September 11th. Sunday school teachers are still needed. Volunteers are also needed for the 4th Wednesday confirmation meals. 2-4 volunteers are needed at for these meals. Volunteers have the option to make food themselves or the confirmation team will provide the food and volunteers will prep, serve and clean up.

**Parish Life & Outreach–Heidi Anderson:** Our committee planned and held a National Night Out event on Tuesday, August 6th from 5:30-8:00. The weather was wonderful! Thank you to my committee, their drafted spouses, and other members for helping set-up for the party and friends who helped breakdown and clean-up after the party. We had roughly 50 neighbors + 5 Goodhue County Sheriff's representatives + 2 horses in attendance at the party. There was a Q&A session with the local deputies, a water balloon toss (Cindy and Val won) and plenty of conversation. We served brats with a variety of toppings, chips, pickles, lemonade and water. Ice cream with strawberries were served for dessert. Thank you to everyone who attended this annual event.

**Church Property–Steven Haggstrom:** Our committee met on Wed. Sept 4. There have been a number of trips and falls on the south side of the shelter. We are looking at fixing the issue of the uneven cement. Ceiling fans in the sanctuary are not working. Looking at repairing or replacing the fans. We looked at the swing set again. We are not moving forward on this project until funds are available. After checking prices, there are huge savings when purchasing in the fall. More will be discussed at the next council meeting. A few members have asked if it would be possible to pair hearing aids to the sound system. We are checking on this.

**Stewardship–Lynnette Sjoquist:** The Stewardship Committee is reviewing past Time, Talent and Treasure Surveys to determine which may be used if any. Thanks to Rachel for harvesting past versions!

**Missions Board–Christy Collins:** Missions did not have an official meeting, but we have some things in the works.

First, the 11th annual Guatemala Gala will be held on 9/22/24 at Midland Hills Country Club in Roseville. Pastora Karen Castillo and Diego Gill will be in attendance from ILAG in Guatemala City. Funds raised at the gala will support a broad spectrum of educational trainings, empowering Guatemalans to live a more dignified life including; education, leadership development, health, music and sustainable agriculture or SEED ministries. If anybody is interested in attending this awesome event contact Val Haggstrom.

Second, Feed My Starving Children mobile packing event will be held on Saturday 11/9/24 at CFHS. There are volunteer opportunities for food packing on Saturday as well as unloading and setting up on Fri 11/8. Registration and donation Information was put in the newsletter and more to come on sign-up's and fundraisers. Any questions or assistance needed with registering and donation can be directed to Val Haggstrom or Jeanne Daniels.

**Executive Committee:** The Executive Committee met to discuss the 2025 benefits offered by Portico.

**Archives Committee:** Nothing new to report.

**Mission Endowment Fund Committee:** The Mission Endowment Fund Committee will be hosting the Estate Planning and End-of-Life Seminar on September 19, 2024.

A motion was made by Ruthie, seconded by Maggie, and carried to approve the foregoing board and committee reports.

**Church Calendar Review:** September 19<sup>th</sup> at 5:15 p.m. – Estate Seminar; October 6<sup>th</sup> – God's Work. Our Hands; October 13<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m. – All-boards meeting.

**Announcements:**

- Next council meeting: October 13, 2024, at 11:00 a.m..
- Closing prayer next month: Steve
- Pam's Helper: September - Jay; October – Steve; November – Maggie

**Adjournment:** The closing prayer was given by Jay. A motion was made by Lynnette, seconded by Christy, and carried to adjourn at 8:29 p.m.

Jay Olson, Secretary

*Subject to Approval*



**The Messenger**  
**Spring Garden Lutheran Church**  
**October 2024**



*"Building a Rural Family in Christ"*

**Church Council Members & Staff**

Pastor Tim Maybee		608-381-9661 revtmaybee@gmail.com
President	Becky Haugen	507-421-2964
Vice-President	Paul Olson	612-437-6619
Secretary	Jay Olson	651-442-8123
Treasurer	Rob Lorentz	507-291-0645
Financial Secretary	Pam Davis	507-263-5657
Worship & Music	Ruthie Sjoblom	651-428-6171
Faith Formation	Maggie Wilson	651-380-4913
Parish Life & Outreach	Heidi Anderson	507-298-5691
Church Property	Steve Haggstrom	507-319-5651
Stewardship	Lynnette Sjoquist	651-245-6619
Missions Board	Christy Collins	507-202-5993
Music Director	David Roinas	
Custodian	Jim Hoffman	
Administrative Asst.	Rachel Benson	507-263-5532

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**Cannon Falls, MN**

**Please read for important information!**

**Swing Set Update**

**Confirmation Meal Preparation**

**Volunteers Needed**

**Feed My Starving Children Information**

**Sunday School and Confirmation**

**Information**



**Address Service Requested**