

The Messenger – May 2025



The Afternoon Quilters
will meet at 1 pm on
Thursday, May 8th.

The Baby Quilt Ministry
will meet at 7 pm
on Monday, May 19th.



Book Chatter

The next meeting is
Thursday, May 15th,
at 7:00 pm, at the home
of Carol Olson.

They will be discussing
The Magnificent Lives of

Marjorie Post
by Allison Pataki.



Summer Worship Schedule

We will have Worship Services
outside every Sunday this summer
(from May 25th through August 31st),
with communion on the first and
third Sundays of each month.
Communion will be moved from July
6th to June 29th for those dates only.

After Worship on the second Sunday of each month,
two of our committees or ministry teams will prepare
a simple lunch and we will eat together, play games,
and enjoy the new playground equipment.

Adult Bible Study

Bible Study will meet at 6:30 pm on May 1, 8, and 29.
Please contact Pastor Tim if you would like
to participate via Zoom.

June/July Newsletter

The June and July newsletters will be combined into
one newsletter this year. The deadline for the June/July
newsletter is Monday, May 19th. Please plan ahead!

Faith Formation



**Seder Meal, Last Day of Sunday School,
Senior Recognition and Scholarships, VBS**

**The First Communion Instructional Class
and Seder Meal** took place on Saturday,
April 26th. Fourth and Fifth Graders were
invited to attend this year.

Fourth Graders:

Riggin Hovel, Marley Koppmann, Vincent
Pagel, Sadie Sjoquist, and Max Wilson

Fifth Graders:

Jax Helgren and Ellison Lindahl

Last day of Sunday School is May 4th!

As we wrap up another wonderful Sunday
School year, I want to thank you parents
for prioritizing Sunday School.

I know how busy life can be on the
weekends. It has been a joy to walk
alongside your children in their faith
journey. They put a smile on my face each
Sunday! Thank you to parents and youth
who assisted with classes this year as
well!

**Vacation Bible School will be June 10th,
11th, 12th, from 5:30-8:00 pm at Urland
Lutheran Church** this year! Please join us!
Registration forms will be sent out soon!

Wishing you all a great summer!
-Maggie

**We will be recognizing our High School Seniors
and awarding scholarships on Sunday, May 18th
during the 10 am Worship Service.**

**Congratulations to our Seniors who are
graduating from High School!**

Josephine Collins
Chloe Sjoquist
Sophie Sjoquist

**Congratulations to the
High School Scholarship recipients!**

Josephine Collins
Chloe Sjoquist
Sophie Sjoquist

**Congratulations to the Spring Garden
Medical Scholarship recipients!**

Josephine Collins Makenna Collins
Emma LeVesque Chloe Sjoquist Sophie Sjoquist

**Congratulations to the Spring Garden
ELCA College Scholarship recipient!**

Kendahl Zimmerman



From the Pastor...

Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved. Acts 2:43-47

Discipleship is a journey of faith that changes us. Acts 2, 4, and 6 give us a phenomenal picture of the early church: a Christian community whose lives together and ministry is summed up in four verses. These verses give us a picture of what the early church was like, and in some ways, what the church is called to be today. I had just finished reading the first six chapters of Acts for my Luke-Acts class in seminary and found myself wondering what it would be like to be part of a church community that attempted to be the church described in Acts 2, 4, and 6.

In these chapters we learn that it is God who guides us into discipleship and ministry. Acts 4:32 states, "Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common." As disciples of Jesus here at Spring Garden, we are to seek the heart and soul of Christ in all that we do. How do we do that? We pray daily; we love one another; we worship together (on-line and in person); we study scripture to learn more of God; we serve others; we unite together in fellowship; we give the resources that God has first given us in order to carry out God's mission in the world; and we evangelize, telling others about Jesus as we live a life of discipleship.

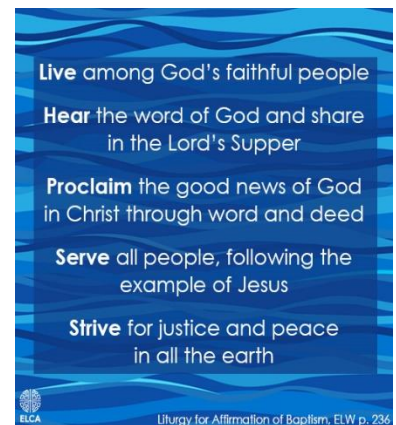
We also learn from these chapters that God guides us in sharing the story of our own life in Christ. We read Acts 6:7 "The word of God continued to spread; the number of the disciples increased greatly in Jerusalem." The story of Jesus was shared by the community. Telling the story of Jesus' activity in your life is your story to tell. Each of us are to witness to Christ's amazing grace.

In these chapters we learn is that God guides us in loving one another and the other. This love is life and world-changing. An ancient rabbi once asked his pupils how they could tell when the night had ended and the day was on its way back. "Could it be," asked one student, "when you can see an animal in the distance and tell whether it is a sheep or a dog?" "No," answered the Rabbi. "Could it be," asked another, "when you look at a tree in the distance and tell whether it is a fig tree or a peach tree?" "No," said the Rabbi. "Well, then what is it?" his pupils demanded. "It is when you look on the face of any person and can see your brother or sister. Because if you cannot do this, then no matter what time it is, it is still night."

I believe that God is calling each of us into discipleship; to step into the broad daylight of God's future for Spring Garden Lutheran. Following God is a call to both the individual and the community of faith. Where is God guiding you/us today? Towards whose heart is God guiding you/us? Towards what testimony of Jesus Christ is God guiding you/us? Towards what kind of extravagant care is God guiding you/us?

The Lord holds our future in God's hands. United in love and fellowship we step into God's call for us, guided by an amazing Spirit who loves us with an amazing love. Oh, what joy! Let's go into God's future together.

In Jesus' name. Amen.



Financial Facts:

Checkbook Balances

February 28, 2025

\$55,790.62

March 31, 2025

\$51,221.74

Thanks to all who attended the Annual Meeting and the Gratitude Meal on April 27.

Thank you to everyone who helped with the meal, especially Rob Lorentz!

Thanks to all who are newly elected and who are willing to serve on committees and/or on council.

It takes more than a village –it takes an entire congregation!

A friend of mine coined a term "Lovitude" and actually licensed it. Lovitude means love and gratitude. "L" for Love and "G" for Gratitude is a symbol of the universe's most powerful positive energies.

May is a month of new beginnings – leaves appear on trees, blossoms begin to burst on the scene and farmers begin to sow seeds in the fields.

Let us as a congregation begin and continue to spread our love and gratitude!



Food Shelf Month a HUGE Success!

Many thanks to all who gave so generously during Spring Garden's Food Shelf Month collection during March. The total amount collected between the Lenten meal and during services was \$1188.79 – Amazing!! In addition, Val and Steve Haggstrom, along with Mark and Glenda Lindell, filled a truck, and Darryl and Marie McLain filled a trunk load of non-perishable items that were delivered to the Cannon Falls Food Shelf – WOW!!! The kids were involved too – pushing the cart down the aisle and collecting goods that each week overflowed the cart.

Speaking of the cart – Next time you are in Family Fare – take an opportunity to thank store manager, Scott Meyer, for the donation of the grocery cart. It is ours to keep and we will be placing it near the church entrance to collect items all year long. Perhaps you would consider donating an item or two once a month – perhaps on the first Sunday of every month... Darryl, Marie, and Stephanie or Val and Steve will make sure all donations are delivered regularly to the Food Shelf.

The Cannon Falls Food Shelf is open Thursdays from 3:00-6:00 pm.

Thank you everyone!

4-21-25
Date

SPRING GARDEN LUTHERAN CHURCH
Name

Thank you for your gift of \$ 1,188.79 to the
Cannon Falls Food Shelf on 4-17-25

Received on behalf of the Cannon Falls Food Shelf by
James Nelson
Cannon Falls Food Shelf Board

Spring Garden Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes – April 8, 2025

In Attendance: Paul Olson, Marcia Dicke, Jay Olson, Pastor Tim Maybee, Ruthie Sjoblom, Steve Haggstrom, Christy Collins, Financial Secretary – Pam Davis, and Treasurer – Rob Lorentz

Call to Order: President Paul Olson called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m. in the church social hall. Opening devotions were given by Pastor Tim.

Secretary's Report: A motion was made by Ruthie, seconded by Steve, and carried to approve the minutes of the March 11, 2025, council meeting.

Financial Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports: Pam's report showed a total of \$36,225.00 in pledges through March 31, 2025. Rob's report showed that the checkbook balance on March 31, 2025, was \$51,221.74. A motion was made by Christy, seconded by Ruthie, and carried to approve the financial reports.

Pastor's Report:

Youth: Once again, the youth will be serving Easter breakfast to raise funds for their trips and camps. We will also have a table set up selling Sargent's gift cards for those who still need some. We will have a communion class on April 26 at 1:00 with the Seder meal following at 4:00.

Pastoral Calls: In March, I made 10 pastoral calls.

Worship: Besides missing Ash Wednesday due to the weather, our midweek Lenten services have gone well. I've enjoyed teaching about the 10 Commandments and the Apostles' Creed, and I think our confirmation youth have done a great job in leading the studies. They have also done a wonderful job in leading Holden Evening Prayer. I am looking forward to the choir cantata on Maundy Thursday, April 17th. It sounds like it's going to be exceptional. We are once again doing the Good Friday Tenebrae service where we do a reader theater of the seven last words of Jesus. This is one of my favorite services of the year and I hope you're able to attend. I am also looking forward to our Easter celebration on April 20th, with services at 6:30 and 10am. Then on April 27th, we will have Holy Humor Sunday. I'm hoping to meet with David on Sunday April 6th to plan it out some more. (See the section on Pastor's vacation days to see what is happening when Pastor is out of town or on vacation.)* *Reminder: We will have worship outside every Sunday this summer (June, July, and August) with communion on the first and third Sunday. After worship service on the second Sunday two of our committees or ministry teams will prepare a simple lunch and we will play games and enjoy the new playground equipment. We could move this monthly event indoors in the fall.*

Continued next page...

April 8, 2025 Church Council Minutes continued...

Adult Education: We have begun our study of Acts and it's going great. Each class stands out on its own so you can join anytime you like either in person or by Zoom.

Time & Talent: Reminder: when looking for new members of our committees and boards please use the ministry volunteer list from the time & talent sheets. Also, please try to include new members or people who have not worked in that area before.

Pastor 2025 Vacation Dates: January 3, May 20-29, July 13-22 (July 4-12 I am on the Youth Mission Trip), August 13-21, and December 26-31. **I've been able to get Pastor Nancy Dreier to fill in all of the weeks I'm gone except for July 6 and December 28. On both of those days I'm recommending we do hymns and reading and carols and readings.*

Goals for 2025: (From my Annual Report)

1. Growing together in our understanding of what it means to be a disciple of Jesus in our church and home life.
2. Working together to get our new playground equipment set up and running for the children, young people, and some adventurous adults.
3. Growing in our outreach into the world with the love of Christ so that others may experience God's grace.
4. Growing in our stewardship or the sharing of our Time, Talent, & Treasure (T3) so that we can fulfill the mission and ministry to which God has called us.
5. To continue to focus on adult education.

Pastor Tim also mentioned that there will be a combined June-July 2025 newsletter and that submissions for the combined newsletter will be due mid-May.

Action Items:

1) *Finalize Agenda for the April 27th Congregational Election Meeting:*

Current Election Nominees:

- Vice President – Marcia Dicke
- Worship & Music – Ruthie Sjoblom
- Parish Life & Outreach – Kaity Schroeder
- Mission Endowment Fund Committee – 2 members – Lowell Peterson and Rob Lorentz
- Nominating Committee – Executive Committee + 1 member – Stan Lundell

2) *Midsommar:* This year, the tractor parade will start at Spring Garden and will end at Vasa. We are planning on serving a light breakfast of muffins, juice, and coffee. There will be a shorter service, and Pastor Tim will bless the tractors as they leave for Vasa.

3) *Set church cleaning date:* Due to a busy schedule at the beginning of June, the council decided to set June 29, 2025, as the date for church cleaning.

4) *Kitchen Refrigerator:* The refrigerator in the kitchen is making excessive noise. Everyone agreed that someone should be brought in to check the refrigerator.

5) *Updating the sound system to include the ability to transmit a Bluetooth signal to hearing aids:* Paul updated the council on new technology that will soon be available to allow the church's sound system to connect with hearing aids made by various manufacturers. Paul and other members of the congregation will continue to look into this matter.

6) *Acoustic treatments for the basement to control noise:* The council discussed bringing in someone to do an analysis of the basement's acoustics. The council also discussed temporary measures to reduce the excessive noise in the basement.

7) *Mission Endowment Fund Committee funding recommendations:* The committee met on April 8, 2025, and made the following funding recommendations:

- \$1,000 to the Lutheran Disaster Relief Fund;
- \$1,500 to repair the roof of the health center at the Fribergs' mission in Tanzania; and
- \$1,000 to Good Earth Village

A motion was made by Ruthie, seconded by Steve, and carried to approve the foregoing funding recommendations.

8) *Purchase of boom mics:* A motion was made by Ruthie, seconded by Steve, and carried to approve up to \$800 from the undesignated memorial fund to purchase two boom mics.

Board and Committee Reports

Worship & Music–Ruthie Sjoblom:

- Easter plant orders (31 orders) were placed and will be picked up on Saturday, April 19, at Sargent's Nursery in Red Wing.

Continued next page...

- On April 7, we met to complete the lay schedule for Sunday, May 4 through Sunday, August 3.
- The Worship and Music Board will meet on Sunday, May 4 for the All-Board meeting.

Faith Formation–Maggie Wilson:

- 4th and 5th graders will participate in the Seder Meal April 26th.
- Youth will be serving Easter breakfast between services on Easter Sunday.
- There is no Sunday school Easter Sunday.
- Youth choir will sing April 27th.
- Youth are selling flower gift cards to raise funds for their summer trips.
- Senior Sunday will be held in May. Date TBD.

Parish Life & Outreach–Heidi Anderson: Parish Life has hosted and coordinated the meals for this season's Lenten services. Thank you to everyone who served food to our hungry teens and adult attendees!

The directory is going to be sent to United Church Directories this week. I will have a draft copy back in 20 days, which will be reviewed/finalized for final printing. Thank you for everyone's patience with me on this project.

Church Property–Steve Haggstrom: Church Mutual sent out a questionnaire mid-March for us to fill out in order to help make us more insurable. Mark Sjoquist was kind enough to fill this out for us. On April 3rd, 2025, Mark Sjoquist, Rob Lorentz, Pastor Tim and I met with Dan from Church Mutual. We discussed our policy and different options we have on our premium. We are waiting to hear back from Dan. As of now, it looks like a 40-45% increase.

Rob and I are working on reconnecting the lightning rods on the church after the addition was added. Trying to meet code.

Stewardship–Lynnette Sjoquist: Stewardship Committee did not meet.

Missions Board–Christy Collins: Missions hosted the Lenten Meal on 3/12/25. Donations were raised for the Cannon Falls Food Shelf.

Missions also held a food drive for the congregation in honor of MN March FoodShare Month. A truckload of food donations was dropped off to the food shelf.

Total donations raised from the food drive and the Lenten Meal came to \$1163.79 and was donated to the Cannon Falls Food Shelf.

We would like to thank the congregation, especially all of the Sunday School Children, for your generous hearts in making the food drive successful.

Executive Committee: The Executive Committee did not meet.

Archives Committee: There was no report from the Archive Committee.

Mission Endowment Fund Committee: The committee met on Tuesday, April 8, 2025, and made the funding recommendations stated in action item number 7 above.

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

Church Calendar Review: April 20, 2025 – Easter; April 27, 2025 – April Congregational Meeting/Gratitude Meal; May 4, 2025 – All Boards Meeting

Agenda for Next Meeting:

- 1) Taking a month off during the summer
- 2) Church opening.

Announcements:

- All Boards Meeting: May 4, 2025, at 11:00 a.m.
- Next council meeting: May 13, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.
- Closing prayer next month: Paul
- Pam's Helper: April – Christy, May – Paul

Adjournment: The closing prayer was given by Christy. A motion was made by Jay, seconded by Steve, and carried to adjourn at 8:28 p.m.

Jay Olson, Secretary

Subject to Approval

The Messenger
Spring Garden Lutheran Church
May 2025

"Building a Rural Family in Christ"



Spring Garden Lutheran Church

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Church Council Members & Staff

Pastor Tim Maybee		608-381-9661
		revtmaybee@gmail.com
President	Paul Olson	612-437-6619
Vice-President	Marcia Dicke	
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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