



# The Messenger – April 2026

## Holy Week & Easter Schedule

**March 29th:** 10:00 am - Palm Sunday/Sunday of the Passion

**April 2nd:** 7:00 pm - Maundy Thursday Service

**April 3rd:** 7:00 pm - Good Friday Service



### **April 5th Easter Activities:**

6:30 am - Easter Sunrise Worship Service

7:45-9:30 am - Breakfast Served by  
Spring Garden Youth

10:00 am - Easter Celebration Worship Service



## Notice of a Congregational Election Meeting and Gratitude Meal on April 12, 2026

The Spring Garden Election Meeting and Gratitude Meal will take place on April 12, 2026, in the church basement immediately following the 10 am Worship Service.



## **No Sunday School Easter Sunday.**

**Our last day of Sunday School will be May 3rd!**

Confirmation youth will join us for **Outdoor Clean-Up Day that Sunday.**

Working together to care for our church reminds us that we all play a part in serving God and our community. We'll celebrate the end of a great year with TREATS and teamwork while sprucing up our church grounds!

**The Youth Choir will sing on Sunday, April 12<sup>th</sup>**



## QUILTING OPPORTUNITIES

**The Afternoon Quilters will meet at 1:00 pm on Thursday, April 9<sup>th</sup>.**

**The Baby Quilt Ministry will meet at 7:00 pm on Monday, April 20<sup>th</sup>.**

Anyone is welcome to join!

The **Cemetery Association** elected two new board members at our January annual meeting. We welcome Jeff Erickson and John Christensen to the board. We look forward to many years of service from these guys! We will be having a meeting in April to elect officers and to plan projects for this year. One of the projects we have on the list is to get a bid to straighten many of the headstones that have settled. This was done about 20-25 years ago, but we have more that need to be fixed. We also need to look at some mole control, leveling the ground in areas that have settled, and cleaning up the tree line. We will have a spring cleanup day. The past several years, the Confirmation classes have participated in cleanup by picking up the garbage, picking sticks, and raking up leaves. The Sunday School kids will also help this year.



Lastly, we want to acknowledge a very generous gift from the Sharon Nelson estate to the Cemetery Association. This gift will be placed into our investment fund and only the interest and dividends of the gift used for maintenance and other projects of the Cemetery Association. We know how special Spring Garden was to both Tom and Sharon and we really appreciate all their gifts of time, talents, and finances over the years.

## **Join us for a special presentation sharing our recent mission trip to Guatemala.**

We will include photos, stories, and memorable highlights from our eight days serving in Guatemala.

We will also share what goes into planning and carrying out these ministry trips, followed by a time for questions and conversation for anyone interested in learning more about how we serve.

## **You're Invited!**

IN DEEP GRATITUDE FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND PRAYERS,  
THE 2026 GUATEMALA TEAM INVITES YOU TO JOIN US FOR  
A DELICIOUS LUNCH AND A PRESENTATION.

LUNCH IS FREE! NO DONATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED.  
THIS IS OUR GIFT TO YOU FOR SUPPORTING US YEAR AFTER YEAR.

**SUNDAY APRIL 19, 2026, 11:00 AM**

LUNCH WILL BE SERVED IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING CHURCH  
WITH A PRESENTATION TO FOLLOW



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## From the Pastor...

Dear Friends,

The door is locked, bolted, and barred with a large beam held in place by two iron hooks imbedded in the wall. Inside sit a rag-tag group of people, a gathering of the not good enough. They are bathed in fear. As you look around the room, you wouldn't take them for a group who are about to change the course of history. Uneducated. Confused. Calloused hands and hearts. Heavy accents. Lacking in the social graces. Outcasts. Little to no knowledge of the world. No money. Undefined leadership. Their limitations go on and on.

As you look at this motley crew, you wouldn't wager too much on their future. Hiding in fear alone. Their leader was executed by the state and they could be next. One of their members, Mary, told them that he is risen, but they see this as an idle tale.

In the midst of the fear and doubt that filled the room, though the door was locked and barred, stands their dead leader, Jesus, ALIVE and speaking. "Shalom (Peace). As the Father sent me, so I am sending you." And send them he did. Ports. Courtyards. Boats. Synagogues. Prisons. Palaces. Fields. Roadways. They went everywhere.

Their message of the risen rabbi, their Lord, spreads across their known world, like an infectious fever. They refused to be stopped, even by death. Uneducated drifters who shook all of history.

Wouldn't it be great to see it happen again? Many say it's impossible. The world is too hard. Too secular. Too post-Christian. This is the age of information, not discipleship. So, we deadbolt our doors. Locked away from the world, hiding in our homes, our rooms, from the fears of our world. We are told to be afraid of the other, each other, and we believe it. So, we lock our doors hiding in fear of "them".

Thus, the world, even our own neighborhood and school, goes largely untouched by God's love and untaught by God's word. Many in our world have yet to hear the story of the risen Messiah and his love for all. The few who do risk going out often come home weary, wounded, overwhelmed by the numbers, and frustrated by the needs.

What would it take to light the fire again? Somehow, those fearful people in the upper room did it. They did it without dragging their feet or making excuses. Without fear! For them it was obvious, "All I know is that Jesus was dead and now he is alive."

Something happens to a person when they stand in the presence of the risen Christ, when you hear Jesus words and feel his everlasting love. Something happens when we stand in the presence of Jesus. Maybe we only need to hear his commission again.

"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you (to love God and to love neighbor). And remember, **I am with you always, to the end of the age.**"

"Will you tell them?" Jesus challenged. "Will you tell them that I Am risen, and I Am with you?"

"We will," the first disciples proclaimed. And they did.

Will I?

Will you?

In the name of the risen Lord,  
Pastor Tim



April 3 — Good Friday  
April 5 — Easter Sunday  
April 12 — Congregational Meeting & Gratitude Meal  
April 15 — Taxes

<b>Checkbook Balances</b>
January 31, 2026: \$38,889.27
February 28, 2026: \$32,664.39

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Hallelujah!

Let us all join in the celebration of the risen Christ! Invite someone to Easter services! Share the love and joy of Christ! We are stewards of all that he has given us!

Please remember the Congregational Meeting on April 12 immediately following the service. The Gratitude Meal will be served downstairs following the meeting. All are welcome!

Just a reminder to those of us who need to determine and direct their RMD's —

Spring Garden Lutheran Church is a great recipient.

## Spring Garden Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes – March 10, 2026

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

**Call to Order:** Vice President Marcia Dicke 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 Kaity, seconded by Maggie, and carried to approve the minutes of the February 10, 2026, council meeting.

**Financial Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports:** Pam's report showed a total of \$27,830.00 in pledges through February 28, 2026. Rob's report showed that the checkbook balance on February 28, 2026, was \$32,664.39. A motion was made by Steve, seconded by Ruthie, and carried to approve the financial reports.

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

Cottage Meetings: Attached to my report is a list of dates I am available in April for cottage meetings. We need a council member to "host" the meeting with me. Unfortunately, sign-up has not been that active I don't know if it's the time of year or if it's that people just aren't interested in participating.

Worship: Upcoming Worship Dates:

1. March 11 Mid-Week Lent dinner at 6:00, study at 7:00. We will discuss the 6th and 7th petitions and the conclusion of the Lord's Prayer
2. March 18 Mid-Week Lent dinner at 6:00, study at 7:00. We will discuss baptism from Luther's Small Catechism.
3. March 25 Mid-Week Lent dinner at 6:00, study at 7:00. We will discuss the Lord's Supper from Luther's Small Catechism.
4. March 29 Palm/Passion Sunday. (After this year I am thinking about just doing Palm Sunday.)
5. April 2 Maundy Thursday service at 7:00.
6. April 3 Good Friday service at 7:00.
7. April 5 Easter Sunday Sunrise Service 6:30 am, Easter Festival Worship Service 10:00 am, Easter Break fast 7:30-9:30 am.
8. April 12 Holy Humor Sunday Worship Service 10:00

Adult Education: In our Letters of Paul, we are in the book of 1 Corinthians. Our remaining books are Second Corinthians, Romans, Philippians, and Philemon.

Funerals: Sharon Nelson – Friday, March 13, visitation at 1:00, funeral at 2:00.

Richard Swanson – Saturday, March 14, visitation at 10:00, funeral at 11:00.

Pastoral Acts & Calls: In February I made 11 pastoral calls.

Pastor 2026 Vacation Dates: February 17, 19, 20, 24, and December 26-31.

### **Action Items:**

1) *Congregational council serving the March 18th Lenten Meal:* Plans were made for serving the Lenten meal.

2) *Set Agenda for April 12, 2026, congregational meeting:* The council set the agenda for the April 12, 2026, congregational meeting:

Call to Order

Opening Prayer

Secretary's Report

Election: Nominees for Council, Mission Endowment Fund Committee, and Nominating Committee

- Vice-president –
- Missions Board –
- Faith Formation Board –
- 1 Mission Endowment Committee Member –
- Nominating Committee—Executive Committee and 1 voting member –

Old Business

1.

New Business

1.

Adjournment of Meeting

3) *Nominations for April congregational meeting:* The council discussed possible nominees for the following positions: a. Vice President; b. Missions Board; c. Faith Formation Board; d. one Mission Endowment Fund Committee member; and e. one Nominating Committee member who is not already a member of the congregation council.

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March 10, 2026 Council minutes continued...

Maggie stated that she would be willing to serve a second three-year term as the Faith Formation Board member of the council.

Christy will be completing her second consecutive three-year term as the Missions Board member of the council and Spring Garden's constitution prohibits individuals from serving more than two consecutive terms on the congregation council.

4) *Using Undesignated Memorial funds to pay for the Auracast transmitter and audio/video bridge link box for the sound system in the sanctuary:* A motion was made by Pastor Tim, seconded by Ruthie, and carried to use Undesignated Memorial funds to pay for the Auracast transmitter and auto/video bridge link box for the sound system in the sanctuary. The congregational council had previously voted to authorize the expenditure of approximately \$4,900 to purchase these devices at the February 10, 2026, congregational council meeting, but had not designated the source of the funds.

#### **Board and Committee Reports:**

**Worship & Music**—*Ruthie Sjoblom:* The Worship and Music Board served at the Wednesday, March 4 Lenten service. We've had approximately 30 people attending the service with great discussions. Sunday, March 8 was the last Sunday to order flowers for Easter. I've heard positive comments about the changes with music with the Kyrie, the song before the prayers, and singing the Lord's prayer on Sundays. We will be meeting in the next few weeks to work on the next lay schedule.

**Faith Formation**—*Maggie Wilson:* There is no Sunday school on March 22nd. Youth will be serving Easter Breakfast on Easter Sunday from 8:00-9:30am.

**Parish Life & Outreach**—*Kaity Schroeder:* Lenten Meals and Services have started. The first night we served and we had around 30 people in attendance for the meal. Worship and music served the following week, and they had around 29 people they served. This week, Stewardship board will be serving. Council board will be serving March 18th, and Missions will be serving on March 25th. I have details regarding how much food was served for any board that is wanting it for planning. I will be contacting rentals for the Midsommar date this week or next week during my spring break.

**Church Property**—*Steve Haggstrom:* Nothing new to report this month.

**Stewardship**—*Lynnette Sjoquist:* Stewardship Committee will be serving the Lenten meal March 11.

**Missions Board**—*Christy Collins:* March is Minnesota FoodShare Month. We continue to support the Cannon Falls Food Shelf with a food drive and encouraging financial gifts.

Missions will be serving the Lenten meal on March 25th.

The Guatemala Team will be offering a presentation including photos of our most recent trip and gratitude meal (no donations accepted) to all members of Spring Garden in thanks of supporting the team. Date is TBD.

Christy and Megan from the Guatemala Team gave a presentation at a Guatemala Friends event at Gloria Dei Church in St. Paul in hopes of garnering interest in the SPAS starting a second Guatemala Mission Team. As a result, someone has offered to lead a February 2027 medical mission trip through the SPAS. Megan and Christy will be giving more presentations in SPAS to raise awareness and garner interest in the Guatemala Health Ministry, as well as assist in the planning and execution of the first 2027 SPAS Medical Mission to ILAG.

**Executive Committee:** The Executive Committee did not meet.

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

**Mission Endowment Fund Committee:** The Mission Endowment Fund Committee is not scheduled to meet until April 14, 2026.

A motion was made by Pastor Tim, seconded by Kaity, and carried to approve the foregoing board and committee reports.

**Church Calendar Review:** April 12, 2026 – Congregational Meeting/Gratitude Meal; May 3, 2026 – Last day of Sunday School/Confirmation and cleanup party

#### **Agenda for Next Meeting:**

- 1.
- 2.

#### **Announcements:**

- Next council meeting: April 14, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.
- Closing prayer in April: Paul
- Pam's Helper: March – Christy; April – Paul

**Adjournment:** The closing prayer was given by Christy. A motion was made by Steve seconded by Kaity, and carried to adjourn at 8:24 p.m.

Jay Olson, Secretary

*Subject to Approval*

Women of the ELCA 

Cannon River Conference Spring Event &  
Salad Luncheon

Saturday April 25, 2026, 8:00-Noon

Cross of Christ Lutheran Church, Welch, MN

*Village Partnership for Education*



Speakers Bruce and Brenda Blair will share their experiences working with the Village of Mondema in Sierra Leone West Africa and helping them convert a vacant church building to this new Center for Education.

**8:00-8:50 - Registration, Coffee and Display Tables**

**This year's offerings will be distributed among:**

Good Earth Village, Churchwide-Women of the ELCA, Lutheran Campus Ministries - Winona, Crossroads Campus Ministries - Mankato

**Love Offering Donations to:** *Village Partnership & First Choice*

**Village Partnership:** dry erase markers, ABC cards, chalk & chalk board erasers, pencils, men's and women's underwear for the teachers (size: medium)

**For First Choice:** Baby Hygiene products: Body wash/shampoo diaper rash cream, Unscented wipes, Clothing 18 months to 5 yrs, Hooded towels and washcloths, gift cards to Target, Walmart or Amazon so they can purchase large baby items, **Clinic supplies** toilet paper, paper towels, disinfecting wipes, copier paper

Please use the attached form to Register by April 15

Walk-ins welcome

Registration Form Cannon River Conference Spring Event

Saturday, April 25, 2026, 8:00-Noon

To be Held at Cross of Christ Lutheran Church, Welch, MN

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Home Congregation: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

List food/diet restrictions \_\_\_\_\_

Pre-Registration Preferred by April 15 - Walk-ins Welcome

Registration fee- \$15.00 Checks to SEMN Synod WELCA

Mail to: Kelley Mittelsteadt Cross of Christ Lutheran Church

24036 County 7 Blvd.

Welch, MN 55089

**The Messenger**  
**Spring Garden Lutheran Church**  
**April 2026**



*"Building a Rural Family in Christ"*



**Church Council Members & Staff**

Pastor Tim Maybee	608-381-9661 revtmaybee@gmail.com
President	Paul Olson
Vice-President	Marcia Dicke
Secretary	Jay Olson
Treasurer	Rob Lorentz
Financial Secretary	Pam Davis
Worship & Music	Ruthie Sjoblom
Faith Formation	Maggie Wilson
Parish Life & Outreach	Kaity Schroeder
Church Property	Steve Haggstrom
Stewardship	Lynnette Sjoquist
Missions Board	Christy Collins
Music Director	David Roinas
Custodian	Jim Hoffman
Administrative Asst.	Rachel Benson

**Spring Garden Lutheran Church**

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**April 2026**



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