

Steeple Talk

Our Savior's Lutheran Church 204 East Caledonia Ave Hillsboro, ND 58045

Volume 44; Issue 5 MAY 2024

Living

From the Presiding Bishop Eaton EASTER MESSAGE 2024 MARCH 28, 2024

"So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them, and they said nothing to anyone for they were afraid." That's where the Gospel of Mark originally ended. And it just seems so odd to me. It's so abrupt. I mean, the women had seen the angel. He'd announced that Jesus was raised from the dead, and then he tells them all this good news and wants them to go on their way. And they just are not going to say a single word.

There are three words in that passage that really stand out for me, especially in the Greek. One is fear *phobos*. We get phobia from that. The other one is amazement—*ekstasis*. We get ecstasy from that. And the other one has to do with being seized. It actually means "being possessed." So we take a look at these women, and they've had this miraculous appearance by an angel. They've heard the good news that Jesus has raised from the dead, and they're too afraid to do anything about it, and they just are going to be silent. It seems that nothing changed. They came to take care of Jesus' dead body because on the Sabbath they could not work. But on the first day of the week, they were there. They have this announcement, and then it's all the same.

Sometimes I think we feel like nothing's changed. Sometimes I think that the events in our country, in our church, around the world are just so terrifying and so overwhelming that it seems like the resurrection really didn't make a difference. But these three words really say something about the women, and I think about us and, most especially, about Easter. When they said that they were filled with amazement—this is this ecstasy, *ekstasis*—they were really standing. It means literally standing in a different place. So though they were still in the tomb and they hadn't reacted yet, nevertheless, everything had changed.

And because of the resurrection, we, all of us, are standing in a different place. The whole of creation is standing in a different place. And the word for fear, *phobos*, phobia we get from that. But it's really a sense of trembling in the presence of God, of awe that they were actually filled with awe—not paralyzed by fear but filled with awe. And I hope this Eastertide and all year round, we have a sense of the presence of God that fills us with awe.

And it also says that they were seized with fear. Well, the word means "possessed." And yes, we believe that in baptism because of the resurrection, Jesus sent the Holy Spirit and we now are all Spirit-possessed.

When things seem to be staying the same, when things seem to be happening and coming at us so quickly, I think it's very important to take time to be a little amazed, to be standing in a different place, to have a sense of this awe and trembling before the Lord, and to allow ourselves to be possessed by the Spirit, who will give us power and courage in these times.

My favorite hymn is "Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song." It's *ELW* 808. And the last verse goes like this: "I fear in the dark and the doubt of my journey; but courage will come with the sound of his steps by my side. And with all of the family Jesus saved by his love, we'll sing to his dawn at the end of our journey."

Be well, dear church. Happy Easter.

<u>PASTORAL ACTS</u>:

BAPTISMS:

Jasper Elliot Sumner

Son of Tyler and Megan Sumner Born: December 14, 2023 Place: Fargo, ND Baptized: April 7, 2024 at OSLC Pastor Joe Johnson, Officiating Godparents: Lexi Olson and Jacob Foss

Connor Michael Opdahl

Son of Ryan and Brenna Opdahl Born: March 2, 2024 Place: Atlanta, GA Baptized: April 28, 2024 at OSLC Pastor Joe Johnson, Officiating Godparents: Sarah and Steve Hoepfner Tara and Jake Mills

<u>Congratulations</u> to Our Savior's Graduates!!

Mallory Alfson Molly Smelden Addyson Merck Thomas Oanes Boeden Allen Zander Hudson Jerod Nathan Lauren Spokely Christian BristKCarter IversonKKatherine OanesPeMcKenna Dickhoff

Kason Buchholz Kaden Kozojed Peter Oanes





Baccalaureate WORSHIP SERVICE HHS Class of 2024 Community Worship Wednesday, May 8th 6:30 p.m.

Family and friends are invited to attend the Baccalaureate worship service on Wednesday, May 8, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. Baccalaureate is a community worship service in which all are invited and welcomed. In this worship service we recognize and celebrate how God has been at work in and through the Class of 2024.

Baccalaureate will be held at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 204 E. Caledonia Ave, Hillsboro. Seniors are asked to be to the church by 6:15 p.m. and meet in the Youth Room (follow the signs).

OSLC Senior Recognition Sunday

on May 19, 2024

On Sunday, May 19th all are welcome to come at **9:30 a.m.** for the Coffee/Fellowship hour, which takes place in the dining hall at Our Savior's. Cake & coffee will be served in honor of Our Savior's Graduating Seniors.

Our Savior's Graduating Seniors will be recognized at the **10:30 a.m**. worship service following coffee hour.

We are requesting that each senior provide us with a **senior picture** for the power point presentation. In addition, any pictures from church related activities, Sunday school, Confirmation, youth trips, etc. would be appreciated, too!

Send pictures to <u>cindy@oslchillsboro.com</u> by Monday, May 13th. Thanks!

OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH



Council Minutes April 4, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.



Members Present – Barb Hultin, Daniel Nelson, Jason Lovas, Teresa Forseth, Vicki Buchholz, Mike Tweten, Michael Bare, Eric Johnson, Beth Christianson, Belinda Bye, Krista Longthorne, Dawn Paulsrud, and Pastor Joe Johnson. Guest: Jason Siegert, Call Committee Chair

- **1.** Call to Order Noting a quorum, President Barb Hultin called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
- 2. Devotions Based on Luke 24 lead by Pastor Joe Johnson.
- **3.** Confirmation of Agenda Jason Lovas moved to accept the agenda with the following change: move New Business before Old business. Daniel Nelson seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

4. New Business –

- a. Jason Siegert, representing the Call Committee, recommended to the OSLC Council to call Amanda Johnson to Our Savior's Lutheran Church. Daniel Nelson moved to recommend to the congregation to call Amanda Johnson as Associate Pastor. Krista Longthorne seconded. Motion carried with one abstention.
- b. Mike Tweten moved to call a congregational meeting for April 21, 2024 at 11:30 a.m. for the purpose of 1) To consider the recommendation to call Amanda Johnson as Associate Pastor of Our Savior's Lutheran Church. 2) Approve a compensation package for Amanda Johnson. Belinda Bye seconded. Motion carried with one abstention.
- c. The church council will determine a compensation package to present to the congregation.

5. Old Business

a. Teresa Forseth moved to accept the staff and mission description updates. Vicki Buchholz seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

6. Pastor Joe's Report –

We continued our Lenten theme "Rooted & Reaching" through Lent and Holy Week. We had Wednesday evening worship services at 6:30 p.m. and brought a piece of our identity to the tree of life in the form of a leaf. The leaves accumulated throughout Lent. When we stripped the altar on Maundy Thursday, we also stripped the leaves off the tree symbolizing the stripping of the life of an innocent man. On Good Friday, the Tree of Life transformed into a cross. Easter Sunday services were well attended with the majority of worshipers at the 9:30 service.

- Treasurer's Report Jason Lovas presented the Treasurer's Report. As of March 31, 2024, income exceeded expenses by \$29,517 for 2024. Jason reported the balance of the media fund is \$8,200. Daniel Nelson moved to accept the treasurer's report. Michael Bare seconded. All in favor, motion carried.
- 8. Deacons' Report- Krista Longthorne thanked Joy McSparron for making bread for communion. They are meeting to determine new signage for inside the church. There will not be communion on April 14, 2024. The Deacons are researching a new church directory.
- **9. Trustees' Report-** Mike Tweten gave a report on projects Trustees are working on currently. A walk through of the church building will be scheduled for all council members.

10. Committee Reports

- a. Media Looking for additional volunteers to help with sound and broadcast.
- b. **Personnel** Walter Mooney's last day will be April 25, 2024. We will be looking for a new custodian.

11. Secretary's Report -

a. **Minutes for April 4, 2024** –Jason Lovas moved to approve the minutes as presented. Michael Bare seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

<u>Special Meeting</u> – Thursday, April 11, 2024 @ 6:00 p.m. (Special Congregational Meeting held April 21, 2024 at 11:30am)

Next Meeting – Sunday, May 5, 2024 at 11:30 am.

Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted, Beth Christianson



APRIL MEMORIAL REPORT

Thank You to all who gave memorials—Tammy Nelson, Memorial Secretary

<u>Dedicated Memorial Accounts</u>: General Account, Media Ministry (radio broadcast, etc.), Global Missions, Building and Grounds, Capital Improvements, Youth Activities, National Youth Gathering/Mission Trips, Christian Education (Sunday School, etc.), OSLC Choir, OSLC Bell Choir, OSLC Bands, Parish Nurse, WELCA / WELCA: Altar, Library or Kitchen, Scholarships (Bible Camps, etc.), OSLC Endowment Fund, and Blanchard Endowment Fund

<u>MEDIA</u> – In memory of Marian Johnson, given by Darlene Swanson; in memory of Alice Reed, given by M/M Gerald Boeddeker and Darlene Swanson; in memory of Carol Hatlen, given by M/M Gerald Boeddeker; in memory of Peggy Eblen, given by M/M Allen Mustad; in memory of Mark Madsen, Gaylen and Isabelle Jeffers, Barry Jeffers, Elmer and Bette Madsen, given by Vicki Madsen, that others may continue to hear God's word

WELCA – In memory of Ruth Siegert and Peggy Eblen, given by M/M Roger Anderson



PIE SOCIAL & USED BOOK SALE

Thursday, May 30, 2024 2 – 5 p.m. at the Plummer House 308 W Caledonia Ave, Hillsboro, ND

Come & enjoy a piece of pie, coffee, and conversation for a donation. Whole pies will be available for purchase. Used books will be sold on the porch. Proceeds will support the OSLC summer youth mission trip & the Traill County Historical Society.

We are looking for donations of books in good condition. No encyclopedias or dictionaries. Books can be dropped off at Traill District Health Unit in the county courthouse.

Would you like to showcase your pastry skills? Also looking for pie bakers!

Questions, contact Brenda Stallman, 430-0538.



NOTE: WELCA has Meal Delivery- May 20-24 (Hannah Workgroup)

Our Savior's WELCA met Thursday, April 4, 2024 with President Sylvia Hansen presiding.

Pastor Joe led the Bible Study on Acts 3:1-10. The post resurrection message. What happens after resurrection. <u>Good things</u> happen! The start of ministry in a different way. The Christian outreach message of feeding my sheep. We are reminded of prayer and worship. We are better together than alone. It takes a village to care for man. We are to be generous in tending the poor and hungry. What we are doing is in the name of Jesus Christ; like the name of our church- Our Savior's Lutheran Church. Healing happens through God, excitement after healing.

Table Prayer was said before Coffee served by Sarah Workgroup.

The business meeting was opened with Prayer and Purpose Statement. The Minutes were read and approved. The Treasurer's report was reviewed and approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Information on the Spring Roundup meeting in Valley City on April 20th was shared. Ten people have signed up. The bus from school was not available. Nancy Bedard Olson and Connie Anderson volunteered to drive. It was decided to meet at the church at 8:00am to be ready to leave.
- Kitchen remodel is on hold. Culinex will be making contact with Nancy and Joy.
- Treasurer, Judy, reported she is still receiving checks-donations.

NEW BUSINESS:

- The quilts will be placed upstairs in the church on Thursday, April 11 at 9:00am. The quilts will be blessed on Sunday, April 14th. 92 quilts were made with the generous help from Arlene Eisenbeis of 20 quilt tops. A statement was made of need for next year for help with quilting- to pin and tie. They could use more sheets for backing of the quilts.
- Jackie reported 6 Layette Kits will be completed, 6 Sewing Kits and 10 Health Kits were assembled.
- Judy reported on the coffee status from LWR. The new grind is ok!

Sylvia announced the following serving schedule:

- Sarah Workgroup has the April 18th Nursing Home Party
- Hannah Workgroup has the May WELCA Meeting
- Hannah Workgroup has the May 16th Nursing Home Party
- Sarah Workgroup has the next funeral

The meeting closed with Offering and The Lord's Prayer.

The next WELCA Meeting is May 2, 2024 at 10 AM.

NOTE: Sunday, April 14 was the blessing of the 92 quilts made by WELCA QUILTERS this past winter. They were displayed in the church during both services. If you were a quilter or donated supplies for this project, THANK YOU. A Thrivent Action Team was also formed and assisted with the purchase of supplies needed for this project. These quilts will be donated to local charities, as well as Lutheran World Relief. Many hours were given by volunteers on every Monday, Jan. - Mar.

WELCA members also completed 10 Health Kits, 6 Layette Kits, and 6 Sewing Kits, which will be donated to Lutheran World Relief. A Thrivent Action Team was formed for this project and provided financing for much of the purchased items. A sample of each of the kits was on display on April 14th. THANK YOU to all of the WELCA members who made donations to complete these projects.

OSLC Senior Choir



It has been a wonderful Choir season! We sang hymns at the Traill County Historical Society Fall Festival, shared our thanks to God in November, had an amazing Community Christmas Concert, were blessed to share a reverent song of honor Good Friday and then a song of praise and Hallelujah at Easter, rejoiced at God's love and grace for us all with <u>I Love You (From an Old Rugged Cross</u> and all the other times we got together to share our love of music with each other, the congregation and especially with our Lord and

Savior, Jesus Christ! It has been a wonderful year! Thank you to all the singers for sharing your time and talent. You let your light shine brightly before others to glorify your Father in Heaven.

Thank you to the congregation for your kind words of encouragement and appreciation. It means a lot to have your support.

Choir will take a break and resume practices in September. Have a fantastic summer!

May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God. Romans 15:5-7 (NIV)

GosBELLs

Thank you, GosBELLs, for all your time and dedication to making this a fun and successful season of ringing! We started practicing in September and went strong through the Community Christmas Concert. Then we got back together to ring praise for Easter and into April. It is such a blessing to laugh and share time with each other and to make music together each week. You are all so much fun! I appreciate each of you.

Thank you to the congregation for your kind words of encouragement and appreciation. It means a lot to have your support.

Bell Choir will take a break and resume practices in September. Have a fantastic summer!

You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven. Matthew 5:14-16 (NIV)

Be on the lookout for tickets for a Raffle Fundraiser in May for the summer youth trip! (pending May 6th permit approval)

Drawing for a chance to win a Queen Size Handmade Quilt, Yeti Roadie 24 Cooler, or a Yeti Tundra 65 Cooler to be held on Sunday, May 26 at 9:30 a.m. at Our Savior's Lutheran Church 204 E Caledonia Ave, Hillsboro, ND 58045 Permit #

Our Savior's Youth

QUILT & COOLER RAFFLE

Not a charitable donation — Need not be present to win



I have had some communications this month, some good and some not so good news. I visited with Bethany Krepela, from Lutheran Partners in Global Ministry. She did a presentation at the WELCA Synod gathering on April 20. The Empowering Women and Girls project in the CAR is up and running, with 80 participants. They are using the schools, which were built some years ago for children's classes, but many of them are no longer operating. There has been some disruption from time to time because of violence by various groups. We are hoping for an update from there. This is a tremendous boost to the women and girls in CAR. They will receive 170 hours of lessons in Sango and French. Simply put, as women and

girls are taught to read and write, they will have a better chance at rising out of poverty and will teach their children, future children and communities. Invest in a woman's education and everyone around her will benefit.

In the days after Easter, a number of members (reportedly 16) of the Lutheran church in Bohong were murdered while working out in their fields. The church there is trying to offer support to their families. Some CAR refugees are returning to CAR, despite the concerns and danger; as life in the refugee camps is also difficult. Others have nothing to return to and are destitute. I am including a news article for you to read about some of the difficulties facing these people. KEEP THEM IN YOUR PRAYERS.

In HIs Service,

Sylvia Hansen Global Mission Committee

Central African Republic: CAR Child Refugees Dream of a Better Future

<u>allAfrica.com</u> By Ngala Killian Chimtom

More than a million people, including children, have fled their homes in the volatile Central Africa Republic to Cameroon. Not all have given up hope.

A bus throws up dust as it rumbles away from the sprawling expanse of the refugee camp at Gado-Badzere in eastern Cameroon. It's heading to the war-ravaged Central African Republic (CAR), just some 30 km (19 miles) away.

Inside the bus is a group of nearly 300 refugees who have chosen to return to their homeland.

Secondary school student Abdel Aziz is among those being voluntarily repatriated. He and his mother fled fighting the fighting in CAR five years ago; Aziz's father is believed dead.

Despite the country's turmoil, 16-year-old Aziz is determined to return home. He wants to continue his schooling and be part of the solution to the crisis afflicting his country.

"Now, I aspire to become a criminal investigative police officer to help fight crimes in society, like the war in the Central African Republic," Aziz told DW, before climbing the bus.

Many are too scared to return

But Yolanda, whose name has been changed by DW to protect her privacy, and her daughter won't be returning. "Seleka rebels raided my home. They raped me and they raped my 14-year-old daughter," Yolanda told DW. "Since I was a Christian before converting to Islam, I have become a target of the Seleka as well as the anti-Balaka. Both sides see me as a danger for them."

Rights organizations such as Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch have documented extensive cases of systematic rape at the hands of Seleka and anti-Balaka rebels and other armed groups.

Her daughter said returning would also be difficult because they don't have family there anymore.

While the 14-year-old diligently studies for her GCE Ordinary Level at the camp, her real dream lies beyond the classroom. She envisions a future where she can make a difference by helping young girls who, like her, have endured the harrowing realities of war.

"I want to become a councilor to guide young girls traumatized by war," she said. "I thank God for protecting us to come out alive in this war. That is why I want to become a councilor to sensitize children to certain things."

More than a decade of violence

Central African Republic has been engulfed in conflict since 2013, when an alliance of predominantly Muslim rebels, known as Seleka, forced President Francois Bozize from office.

The Seleka rebels unleashed violence upon Christians, leading Christian youths to organize themselves into a militia known as the anti-Balaka. Despite the eventual ousting of the Seleka faction, a cycle of tit-for-tat violence persists between the two groups.

Meanwhile, the central government grapples with asserting its influence beyond the capital, Bangui. The situation has improved "in some areas in early 2024," finds a recent UNICEF report.

As a result of the volatile security situation, one in five of the country's 5.5 million population are displaced within and across CAR's borders.

In addition to the more than 500,000 internally displaced, some 725,000 people are seeking refuge in neighboring countries, with around 300,000 in Cameroon.

Edited by: Chrispin Mwakideu



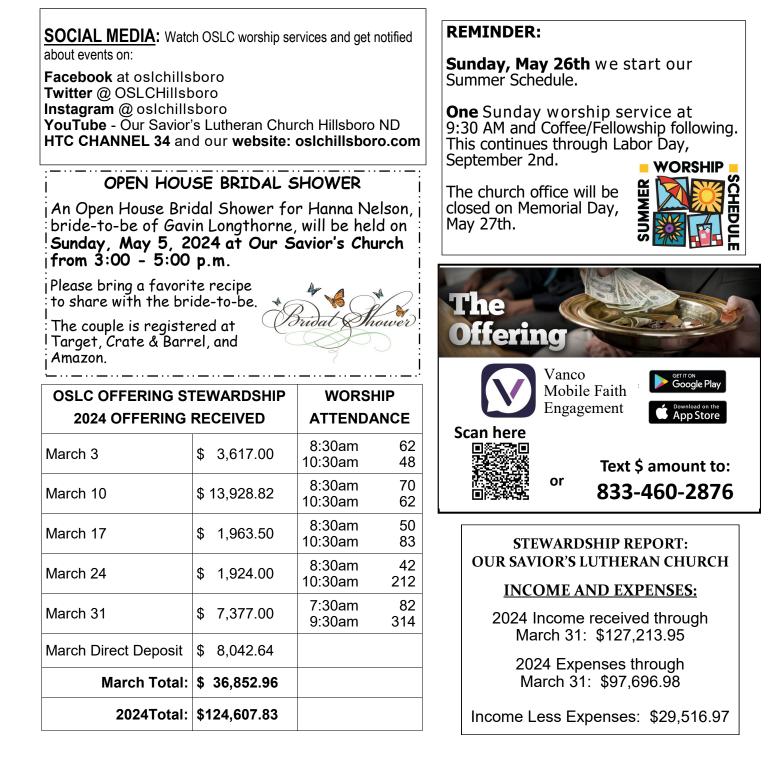
Refugees cross into Chad by foot from the Central African Republic (file image).

INFORMATION

HILLSBORO KIWANIS FOOD PANTRY: On the first Sunday of the month, it is an Our Savior's tradition to bring donations for the food pantry. Place your items in the wood crate located inside and to the west of the front door of the church.

Items needed include: Green Beans, Juice (orange, grape, apple, cranberry), Flour, Laundry Detergent, Dish Soap, Jelly (strawberry, grape), Ketchup, Mustard, Cooking oil, Cooking Spray, Dry Mashed Potatoes, Crunchy Peanut Butter, Paper Towels, Coffee, Cereal, Pancake Mix, Syrup, Crackers.

The Hillsboro Kiwanis Food Pantry is located at the Hillsboro Armory. Open the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month from 4-6 pm. THANK YOU for your generous donations for those in need. If you have any questions please contact Rich G. at 701-436-5777 or Dan C. at 701-430-1595.







W.O.W. (Women of the Word) BIBLE STUDY has adjourned for the summer. THANK YOU to each lady who came, as that is what makes our Bible Study special, along with our loving Jesus.

Be thankful and remember to pray -Senora Almquist, Leader





Sunday, May 12, 2024





Sunday Acolytes in May:

- May 5 8:30am: Devin W., Siri W. 10:30am: Brayden A., Keagan A.
- May 12 8:30am: Ross H., Coby H. 10:30am: Joel T., Gavin G.
- May 19 8:30am: Ryland C., Lillie D. 10:30am: Liam E., James F.

2024 COUNCIL MEMBERS



me05:01 bns

Broadcast live on Sunday mornings on KMSR 1520 AM and WMS 05.5 FM 34 at 8:30am AM ATC Channel 34 at 8:30am

Mike Tweten 701-238-2073		YouTube: Our Savior's Lutheran Church Hillsboro ND
Belinda Bye 712-389-2152		Twitter: OSLCHillsboro; Instagram: oslchillsboro
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Beth Christianson 430-2309	Secretary:	Church Office Manager: Cindy Doeden
Daniel Nelson 430-3689	Vice-President:	
Barb Hultin 430-0748	President:	



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