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Our haul for S.T.E.P. (3/29)

What's Inside:

An invitation to our May 20th event
A calendar of upcoming events
Three of the latest View From The Pew columns
And more!



Calendar- May 2018

Tue May 1, 2018

5:30pm Women's AA (Green Room)

6:30pm CYF

Wed May 2, 2018

5:30pm Drop In Bible Study 6:30pm Men of the Choir 7:00pm Choir

Fri May 4, 2018

7:00am N A 7:30pm Desire AA (Green Room)

Sun May 6, 2018

9:00am Sunday School & Choir10:00am Worship11:15am Fellowship

Mon May 7, 2018

7:00pm Boy Scouts (Fellowship Hall)

Tue May 8, 2018

5:30pm Women's AA (Elevator Room)

Wed May 9, 2018

5:45pm Drop In Bible Study 6:30pm Men of the Choir

7:00pm Choir

Thu May 10, 2018

7:00pm Church Council

Fri May 11, 2018

7:00am N A

6:15pm Shelter Supper

7:30pm Desire AA (Green Room)

Sun May 13, 2018

9:00am Sunday School & Choir 10:00am Worship 11:15am Fellowship

Mon May 14, 2018

7:00pm Boy Scouts (Fellowship Hall)

Tue May 15, 2018

5:30pm Women's AA (Fellowship Hall)

Wed May 16, 2018

5:45pm Drop In Bible Study6:30pm Men of the Choir7:00pm Choir

Thu May 17, 2018

1:00pm Active Adults7:00pm Men's Group7:00pm Prayer Shawl Group

Fri May 18, 2018

7:00am N.A.

7:30pm Desire AA (Green Room)

Sun May 20, 2018

Share the Spirit Sunday

Pentecost Sunday

9:00am Sunday School and Choir 10:00am Worship 11:15am Potluck

Mon May 21, 2018

7:00pm Boy Scouts (Fellowship Hall)

Tue May 22, 2018

5:30pm Women's AA (Elevator Room)

Wed May 23, 2018

5:45pm Drop In Bible Study 6:30pm Men of the Choir 7:00pm Choir

Fri May 25, 2018

7:00am N.A. 7:30pm Desire AA (Green Room)

Sun May 27, 2018

9:00am Sunday School and Choir10:00am Worship11:15am Fellowship

Mon May 28, 2018

7:00pm Boy Scouts (Fellowship Hall)

Wed May 30, 2018

5:45pm Drop In Bible Study 6:30pm Men of the Choir 7:00pm Choir



Community News

Social Action Calendar – March to May2018

April 2018

14 Shelter Breakfast 5:30 to 7:30am

15 Share the Spirit Sunday

May 2018

11 Shelter Supper 6:00 to 8:30pm

20 Share the Spirit Sunday

July 2018

13 Shelter Supper 6:00 to 8:30pm

15 Share the Spirit Sunday

Our Saviours Shelter Breakfast- May 11th

On Friday, May 11th, Spirit of Christ will serve dinner at the shelter. We will be serving baked chicken, potatoes, vegetables, rolls, milk, lemonade and dessert. Right now, we need volunteers to serve the meal and we can use homemade desserts and coffee or tea donations. If you would like to join us to serve the meal or make a monetary or dessert donation, talk to Carolee or Mark at church, email c -cohe@umn.edu or call 952-935-5608.

SLP BirdFeeder Donations

During the month of May, we continue to collect donations for the food shelf at SLP Bird Feeder to help them keep their shelves stocked for the end of the school year. Recommended food items are ones that do not involve the use of stoves or ovens. The best items you can donate are full packaged meals that require few outside ingredients, along with meals that can be

made within their packages. These are appreciated by the families who don't have access to other cooking equipment. We hope you will "spring into action" and buy the top ten items needed at Bird Feeder. Bring your items to the table in the narthex and we will deliver them to the High School for you!

Top Ten Food Items to Donate
Canned Fruits
Microwavable Meals
Bread/ Tortillas
Nutritional drinks/ Bottled water
Jelly
Pasta Sauce
Backpacks
Snacks
Canned Meat
Rice

Share the Spirit Sunday



How can you share the Spirit? While sharing can take MANY forms, one opportunity we have every 3rd Sunday of the month is to contribute to the "Share the Spirit" fund. These donations are used in many ways: to support the shelter meals, Tree-House, special requests from STEP or Bird Feeder and our 363days.org sandwich making project.



Get involved with Social Action!

The Social Action team (aka SOC SAC) welcomes everyone in the congregation to join us to plan and organize mission and social action events. This could be an ongoing activity or a one-time commitment. Talk to anyone on the Social Action Team: (Mark or Carolee Cohen, Wendi Harmsen, Pat Latvala, Deb Schmitz, Joanne Stone or Jeanne Worm) if you want to help!



Join us Sunday, May 20th. It's Pentecost Sunday (so wear red!), the choir is having their spring concert during worship, and we are having a potluck outside afterwards! Hot dogs and ice cream sundaes will be provided, so please bring a dish to share. Lawn games and bikes are also encouraged.

VBS and Service Camp— August 13-17

This year, our day camp schedule is going to look a little different. We've divided it up into a morning VBS and an afternoon service camp.

Vacation Bible School

9am-12:00 | Ages: 3 years-8th grade | \$50

Join us for VBS this summer! Unlike past years, VBS will be a morning day camp! Parents and older siblings are welcome to join us but not required! 7th-8th grade participants will have leadership roles. We will learn about God's love through music, crafts, games and lots of fun!

Service Camp

August 13-16 (M-Th only) | 12:00-4pm Ages: 5 years - 8th grade | \$100

Talk to Nikki or Nancy about questions, more information, scholarship opportunities or to volunteer.

<u>View From the Pew - No. 1, Vol. 22</u> By Bruce Lindquist

Mindfulness is a good thing — a really useful trait to have. It helps us stay in the now, to look around and appreciate what we have, to take advantage of opportunities in front of us, and be aware of the gratitude we should be feeling toward the people and world around us. We don't always have to look for that "better day" down the road; chances are, a lot of the things that would make up a "better day" are present with us today.



I'm as guilty as anyone when it comes to getting wrapped up in one endeavor at the expense of another. I might go for a walk/run and spend so much time around the lakes that I miss a lunch meeting. Or get so wrapped up in some pencil sketch of Devils Tower that I forget to mail a stack of letters that should have gone out days ago!

Mindfulness keeps us from wasting time, helping us to stay focused, like I should be doing right now, in expressing gratitude to a large cast of congregants, each responsible for the overall success of Easter Sunday morning's church breakfast. Just as **Pastor Durk's** sermon, the confetti, the fellowship, the flowers, the Easter egg hunt, the large crowd and the choir's music, the SOC breakfast was another solid spoke in a wheel which turned out to be a glorious day on our church calendar.

First off, thanks to congregation members for donating a variety of food items to have something to work with! And to **Dina Strachota's** inspiration and organizational efforts which resulted in the "make your own omelet" a great breakfast!

Wendi Harmsen, Stacey Andrew and Dina made the omelets, and Sophia Wasvick manned the drink and dessert table. Courtney Hanson helped folks select ingredients for their omelets, and Mae Harmsen, Walter Malone and Sam Andrew delivered breakfast plates to the tables, while also serving as all-around helpers.

Nancy and Walter Malone Sr. took on shopping duties, and also served as kitchen workers and all -around helpers. Cheryl Hanson also did multi-

tasking as a cook, shopper, organizer and dish washer.

Stacy Andrew volunteered on cleanup duty, dish washing, cooking and food prep, while the **youth** and **Pastor Durk** also did table set-up and food prep. **Marie Wasvick's** efforts also included food donations.

And while the snow cover outside prevented the children from hunting for eggs in the grass, Boss Bunny (**Bruce Strachota**), very nattily-attired in his hare hat, pointed the young ones in the direction of the basement hallways and rooms in search of colorful prize-filled plastic orbs. This is a wonderful tradition that **Bruce** keeps alive year after year.

To all of you, **THANKS** for a memorable start to a remarkable Sunday! (And for **Wendi's** assistance in info-gathering for this piece!)

Churches must rely on the help of volunteers to get by, of course, but pound-for-pound, I think you would be hard-pressed to find a religious organization that gets more out of its basic supporting cast than SOC. Our spiritual leader, upon joining our congregation last year, described our members as a "plucky" group. I think that is still a very apt description of us. Have a safe and healthy week.

Week of April 15, 2018, Vol. 1, No. 23

She had a positive influence on many -- The full, productive and meaningful life of SOC member **Delores E. "Dee" Woullet** was celebrated



here on April 11, and judging from the service and its contents, she is dearly missed by many family members and friends. Dee, as she was known in our church, passed on April 5, at the age of 95. She was richly-blessed with five children, 13 grandchildren and 20 greatgrandchildren. She sang in a group when she was younger, taught Sunday School at Ascension Lutheran, and volunteered with Dinner at Your Door. Our thoughts and prayers are with her large and loving family at this difficult time. And as her extended church family, we mourn her loss, too.

Has Easter come and gone? I realize I can be a pest in searching for information for this space, so when I get cooperation from my fellow parishioners, I do not take it for granted. The latest to graciously oblige me is Lowell Brandt with a scholarly, highly-readable take on Lent -- and its length. "Easter is over. Right? Well, not so fast. The Sundays that *follow* Easter are the Sundays OF Easter, not AFTER Easter. Easter is a continuous 50-day celebration leading all the way to Pentecost. Somehow, in the Middle Ages, Easter got hijacked. The Church became more interested in the sinfulness of humanity than the possibilities of the resurrection life. Lent became longer and longer. Now, by the time Lent is over, I, for one, am weary of it all. Let's consider reducing Lent to one week . . . Holy Week. Then, let's spend the Great Fifty Days using our renewed energy to reflect on the joyful possibilities of life with the Risen Christ. The Resurrection of Our Lord changes everything. That's my view from the pew." Thank you, Lowell.

Call for photos – For years, almost by default,

LeRoy Murray has become the "keeper of the pictures" along the SOC basement walls – maintaining our Confirmation Hall of Fame. "Most years are represented there, but we do have a few gaps between classes," he said. The most glaring gap, he pointed out, is very recent -- and noticeable. Five straight years – 2011 through 2015 -- are missing. Were there some years without SOC confirmation classes? But for other missing photos, parents or relatives likely have one or two. If possible, it would be nice to see the gaps filled in. Contact LeRoy if you happen to have such a photo.

Lending a hand in the sun, too -- Pat and David Latvala and Eileen and Glen Soderberg all spent much of the winter (and spring!) in The Sunshine State, returning only a matter of days ago. So their Florida days and nights were filled with a couple of months' worth of beachcombing, golf, and general lollygagging, right? If you said "of course not – not this quartet from SOC," you would be right. The **Soderbergs** spent part of their time serving 150 homeless migrants in a park at Bonita Springs, and the Latvalas were involved, in the Sarasota area, with tending to the needs of a neighbor suffering with dementia. So in reality, they continued their "vacation" service work – it just happened to be more than 1,600 miles south of here. Good works know no borders.

Week of April 22, Vol. 1, No. 24

House was empty - message was not -- Pastor Durk's sermon on April 16 was delivered before an empty house. No one was in the SOC sanctu-



ary to appreciate his well-crafted message. Not only that, there was no one serving coffee, no ushers, nobody putting anything into the collection plates, no lighting of the candles, no Powerpoint operator, no altos, no tenors, nada choir, no sharing of the peace. That seems like such a waste, doesn't it? How could such a no-show event happen?

The sharp-eyed among you, however, will point out that, of course, there was nary a soul among the rows and rows of pews on either side of the church for a very good reason: April 16 was a Monday. And your observation would be correct -- except for the fact that he did give his sermon and lessons on the first day of the work week. Okay, you're saying, if all of this is true, I'm still a little hazy about this Monday thing. We don't sit in in our pews on a Monday anyway, so why would our pastor happen to show up a day after our usual big Lutheran meeting day of the week and still lead us through a service while it's clear that nobody is looking up at the pulpit? Considering the day of the week, myself, I would just assume that our congregants are either at work, taking a class at Lenox Community Center, or picking up orange juice and celery at Cub. Weekday stuff.

To top it off, there was no scheduled service on Sunday, April 15, either -- for a very good reason: Many of the streets in St. Louis Park were either treacherous or impassable due to a record 15-plus inches of snow that continued right through Sunday. With service cancelled, **Pastor Durk** continued, the next day, and spoke to the congregation – and a recording device. Like his other sermons, it is available on a link at SOC's weekly

Outlook online newsletter. I would highly-recommend clicking on the "blizzard" sermon link of 4/15, if you have not heard it. Woven into Pastor's presentation was an anecdotal reference to an incident years ago at a Wednesday confirmation class involving an Alice Cooper album. Those of us of a certain age, especially Baby Boomers, will find his discussion of rock performers' stage persona vs. their personal lives relevant. No need for a spoiler alert — I will simply let you click on the link yourself.

Texas? This is big -- Five young people from our congregation are scheduled to make the trip to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's Youth Gathering in Houston, Texas, June 27-July 2. Every three years, 30,000 high school youth and their adult leaders from across the nation gather for a week of faith formation. The young people are challenged and inspired to live their faith every day.

So far, two of the five from SOC have responded to the question posed to them: "What are you most looking forward to on the ELCA National Youth Gathering trip to Houston?"

Courtney Hanson said, "I can't wait to see how many youth are there, seeing how much we all grow in our faith, seeing how many people I know, and meeting new people."

Mae Harmsen responded, "I am most looking forward to meeting new people with the same intentions of giving back as me." Thanks, **Mae** and **Courtney**.

