What’s Inside:
A Pastor’s Pen
A schedule for worship assistants for the month
2 great View from the Pew articles
Our Lenten rotation schedule
And more!
I can’t fully express just how much I enjoyed our time together worshipping as Grace in The Park over Lent.

It was truly a great time to help remind us that to be the church is much bigger than sometimes we like to believe.

And as Prince of Peace Lutheran and Wooddale Lutheran begin to walk purposefully together into a possible merger it will be of utmost importance for us, here at Spirit of Christ, to lend our support for them in every way possible.

We will need to pray for them.

We will need to be patient with them as they may need to take time to step back from Grace In the Park stuff to concentrate on what they are trying to do.

And we will definitely need to be mindful of the grief and heartache that many of their members will be experiencing over their loss.

But we’ve done this before and so we know that in the long run a merger can be a blessing and can help a congregation move forward with new purpose and with a new sense for mission.

At least that’s what I think we’ve been doing for the last ten years.

We’ve been moving forward with purpose to expand our mission.

And not with the end goal of simply growing the church, but because it’s the right thing to do.

And that’s why I’m so thankful that as part of celebrating our ten-year anniversary we’ve set a goal of raising $10,000 specifically for four of our mission support partners.

And while we might only be about half way to our goal by June 9th I am confident that by the end of this year we can reach this goal.

In the meantime, we can look forward to being the church together, celebrate all we’ve accomplished on Pentecost Sunday when Bishop Ann will be our guest preacher, and continue to be filled with hope for what the next ten years might hold for our congregation.

Blessings, Pastor Durk
## Worship Assistants This Month

### Sunday, May 5th
- **Lector:** Glen Soderberg
- **Ushers:** Team 2 (Pat and Dave Latvala, Nancy and Walter Malone)
- **Powerpoint Operator:** Dina Strachota
- **Money Counters:** Erik Mornes

### Sunday, May 12th
- **Lector:** Renee Compo
- **Ushers:** Team 3 (Glen and Eileen Soderberg, Erik Mornes, Bruce Lindquist)
- **Powerpoint Operator:** Bret Hanson
- **Money Counters:** Dick Brammer

### Sunday, May 19th
- **Lector:** Renee Compo
- **Ushers:** Team 4 (Jan Arnold, Nikki Christensen, Karen and Clark Johnson, Kristi White)
- **Powerpoint Operator:** Dina Strachota
- **Money Counters:** Jen Mornes

### Sunday, May 26th
- **Lector:** Anne Kraft
- **Ushers:** Team 5 (Bret, Cheryl, and Courtney Hanson, Jen Mornes)
- **Powerpoint Operator:** LeRoy Murray
- **Money Counters:**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Events</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wednesday, May 1</strong></td>
<td>3:30pm Confirmation</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Thursday, May 2</strong></td>
<td>7:00pm Prayer Shawl Group</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| **Sunday, May 5**      | 10:00am Sunday School  
                        | 10:20am Choir  
                        | 11:00am Worship  
                        | 12:00pm Cinco de Mayo lunch |
| **Tuesday, May 7**     | 6:00pm CYF meeting                                                        |
| **Wednesday, May 8**   | 3:30pm Confirmation  
                        | 5:30pm Bible Study  
                        | 6:30pm Men of the choir  
                        | 7:00pm Choir |
| **Thursday, May 9**    | 7:00pm Church Council                                                     |
| **Friday, May 10**     | 6:00pm Shelter Supper                                                     |
| **Sunday, May 12**     | 9:15am Men of the Choir  
                        | 9:45am Choir  
                        | 10:00am Sunday School  
                        | 11:00am Worship  
                        | 12:00pm Fellowship |
| **Thursday, May 16**   | 1:00pm Active Adults  
                        | 7:00pm Men's Group |
| **Sunday, May 19**     | 9:15am Men of the Choir  
                        | 9:45am Choir  
                        | 10:00am Sunday School  
                        | 11:00am Worship  
                        | 12:00pm Fellowship |
| **Sunday, May 26**     | 10:00am Sunday School  
                        | 11:00am Worship  
                        | 12:00pm Fellowship |
| **Weekly**             | 7:00pm Boy Scouts (Fellowship Hall) |
| **Weekly**             | 5:30pm Women's AA (Green Room) |
| **Friday**             | 7:00am N A  
                        | 7:30pm Desire AA (Green Room) |
Social Action Calendar –
May to July 2019

May 2019
10  Shelter Supper 6:00 to 8:30pm
19  Sunday School/Intergenerational Snack Packing 10am (before church)

June 2019
8   Shelter Breakfast 6:30 to 8:30am

July 2019
10  Shelter Supper 6:00 to 8:30pm

Our Saviours Shelter Breakfast – April 13th
On Friday, May 10th, Spirit of Christ will serve supper at the shelter. We will be serving baked chicken, stuffing, gravy, green bean casserole, rolls, lemonade and dessert. We can use homemade desserts and coffee or tea donations and servers. If you would like to join us for serving or make a donation, talk to Mark or Carolee at church, email c-cohe@umn.edu or call 952-935-5608 to learn more.

SLP BirdFeeder Donations
During the month of April, we will collect donations for the food shelf at SLP Bird Feeder. If you are not familiar with this program at the St. Louis Park High School, it is managed by student volunteers to help their classmates with a supply of food to get them through the weekend and holidays, check out their website https://theslpbirdfeeder.weebly.com/

Top Ten Food Items to Donate
1. Canned Fruits
2. Microwavable Meals
3. Bread/ Tortillas
4. Nutritional drinks/ Bottled water
5. Jelly
6. Pasta Sauce
7. Backpacks
8. Snacks
9. Canned Meat
10. Rice

You are invited! May 19th 10am – Pack a Snack for STEP!
During the Sunday school hour (10am) on May 19th, join the Sunday School and Social Action teams to pack snack bags for STEP. When customers visit STEP’s food shelf, snack bags are provided as available and they are a big hit! Join us to pack snack bags. Social Action will provide the bags and the snacks. We need you to help us pack up the treats!

Share the Spirit Sunday
To keep everyone in the loop on activity related to our new model for mission funding in 2019 as part of the SOC annual budget, the Social Action team made a $500 donation to TreeHouse on April 28,
2019 on behalf of the congregation. See https://www.treehouseyouth.org/ for more information about TreeHouse (their home page currently has a picture of Greg and the SLP youth!).

Thank you SOC members for your continued commitment to supporting our neighbors in need.

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 Laval, Deb Schmitz, Joanne Stone or Jeanne Worm) if you want to help!

Announcements

Cinco de Mayo Lunch
The 10th anniversary committee invites you to celebrate Cinco de Mayo after church on Sunday, May 5th. On the menu are chicken enchilada plates for a suggested donation of $5 and walking tacos for a suggested donation of $3.

10th anniversary shirts - order ASAP!
We’re ordering 10th anniversary shirts! We’ve got a size range of youth S to adult 4X. If you’d like to order, please contact the church office or send your name, sizes and quantities, and payment to the church as soon as possible. Shirts are $10 each.

They will be at church for pick up starting Sunday, May 19th. We will also have tie dying materials if you’d like to tie dye your shirt. Then be sure to wear them on Sunday, June 9th, for our 10th anniversary celebration!

Choir Concert and Bake Sale
The annual spring choir concert will be on Sunday, May 19th. Join us for a moving morning of music. After worship, there will be baked goods for sale and proceeds will go towards our 10th anniversary $10,000 fundraising goal for local mission partners.

If you’d like to donate baked goods for the bake sale, contact Nikki in the church office or any of the members of the 10th anniversary committee.

Save the date – June 2nd and June 9th
On Sunday, June 2nd, former SOC Pastor Wes Severson will be preaching.
On Sunday, June 9th, our synod Bishop Ann Svennungsen will be preaching during our 10th anniversary worship service.

10 Year Anniversary = $10,000 goal
In honor of our 10 year anniversary, we have a goal of raising $10,000 to support local mission work. The money will be split between Our Saviour’s Community Services, S.T.E.P., the St. Louis Park BirdFeeder Program, and the Minneapolis Area Synod.

To help us reach our goal, we’ve got two things going: envelopes and noisy offering.

If you want to check the progress, there's a sign in the back of the sanctuary with a garden on it that will get petals and flowers added to it as we continue to raise money.

Thanks for supporting this fundraising effort and celebrating 10th years “Being Led By The Spirit”!
Sometimes, all you have to do is ask --

Sometimes Our choir, in their own words . . . A few SOC members expressed interest in seeing a piece on the choir, and since music plays such an integral part in our services, I agreed. So, I thought I would let them, in their own words, give a brief background of their own unique experiences, printed here over the next several weeks. The responses are running in the order received.

Barb Endres: “I just enjoy singing in the choir so much. Each section has a different personality! I envy not being an alto sometimes, such a cohesive group. I always wanted to be a singer. My brothers and the neighborhood kids used to make fun of my singing, so I didn’t sing, except in the car, for my whole life. When I came to SOC, I really enjoyed singing the hymns. Then Karen Johnson invited me to sing in the choir. I have really found my voice, and I feel like I am getting to be a better singer each year. I’m grateful to the choir and Steve for supporting me.”

Jeanne Worm: “I went to a small Catholic school for grade school. We had to be a part of the choir when we were in sixth, seventh and eighth grades. Of course, I was an alto. Father would say mass every day, and in the summer, we would each have to take a week, go to mass every day, and chant replies (in Latin). When I first came to join the choir in September of 1986, I was pretty nervous. I asked Dorothy if I could join even though we weren’t members yet. She said of course, and set me with the sopranos! I lip synced the whole song! I must have had a fearful look on my face, because she said, ‘I think you’re an alto,’ laughed, and made me feel much better! Karen Flattern knows I still lip-sync once in a while.”

Karen Flattern: I first joined the choir back in 1986 after our son was born. He was born in November, and after a month or two of being cooped up at home, I began to catch a little cabin fever. So, at the suggestion of my father-in-law (Rob Flattern), I started coming to choir practice. At first I thought of it as just a night out of the house, but it soon turned into much more. It was not only a great way to meet church members, but it was almost like a weekly mini Bible study for me, also. Dorothy Danek was choir director, and she had a way of helping us connect and interpret the Gospel reading for that Sunday into the songs we were singing. It’s also a great way to get involved in the church and worship service.”

Dina Strachota: “When I was in the sixth grade, I learned to play clarinet, and played through high school. I also had one year of piano lessons. I currently have a guitar that is just waiting for me to learn how to play. Music is an outward expression of my faith. For me, music can convey feelings in word and song that I may have a hard time expressing otherwise. As the music and words we sing touch my soul, I find great joy in sharing it with others. It is very meaningful when it brings out emotions in others, and those listening are moved by the power of the songs we sing.”

Charlotte is with her Lord -- We mourn the passing of longtime Ascension and Spirit of Christ member Charlotte Bolling, and join husband, Roy, son, Scott, daughter, Britta, and their families, in remembering and celebrating the time she spent with us. Charlotte, 85, died March 31 in Golden Valley, with her funeral held at Washburn-McReavy in Hopkins on April 8. Our prayers are with Roy and the extended family at this difficult time of transition.
Hitting the high and low (notes) with our choir — It started in the last View, and members of our SOC choir continue with their personal comments on the journey and circumstances which led them to become part of the present church musical contingent. Three of the following members in this week’s installment easily have amassed more than a century of vocal practices and Sunday contributions in the sanctuary, with Harding Hanson alone accounting for just a few years shy of half a century!

Again, here they are, in the order in which their responses were received:

Jan Arnold: “I have been a member of this church for many, many years. I first started in the choir when I was a little girl in the “old building,” where we had a children’s choir. When I was older, I then joined the adult choir. We do have a musical background in my family, so I have always loved music. When I sing, I feel good, and I feel free. If I’m down or upset, I listen to music. Singing and listening to music makes me feel closer to God, and I feel that I am teaching the word of God through music.”

Harding Hanson: “I joined the choir in September of 1975, which means I have now been in the choir for more than 43-1/2 years. I first started by playing the cello in the school orchestra in the fifth grade, ending when I graduated from high school eight years later. After two years, I missed performing, so, after some thought and realizing my talent came from God, I joined the choir, so I could use my talent for God and his glory. I sang bass for 4-1/2 years, then tenor for 5-1/2 years, and back to bass until . . .

From day one, this has been a great group of people, and generally some great directors (seven of them), and great accompanists (six). I have, of course, seen a lot of changes over the years. With this, I will close.”

Renee Compo: “I joined the choir at Ascension 36 years ago. I was at a very low point in my life and the choir accepted me for who I was. I was loved and that feeling has never gone away. They helped save my life. I have said many times that if I ever have to start giving things up, choir will be my last choice.

Singing praises to God and doing this with the best people in the world does not get any better.”

I suppose this is as good a place as any to throw in a few comments of my own (Bruce L.). I sang with the bass section in the choir at my home church, Zion Lutheran, Minneapolis, while in West High, and at the U, which probably amounts to seven years. Before that, I played my Mother’s old clarinet for a couple years in grade school, but by the time I reached Jefferson Junior High in Minneapolis, baseball, basketball, football and track had all gotten in the way of music, so that fell by the wayside for decades.

I have been with this group of talented SOC singers (that doesn’t describe me) for five years, which means I’m a rookie.

It’s all up ahead -- “We should all be concerned about the future because we will have to spend the rest of our lives there.” -- Charles Kettering

Hope your week goes well.
Well the season of Lent is over and the Season of Easter has begun.

Christ is Risen. Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

And as faithful followers of our Risen Christ it has now become our charge to do the work Jesus began as he walked, talked, healed, and forgave everyone he came in contact with during his short ministry.

But even though his ministry was only three years long this was enough; enough time to show us that our number one priority and call is to always love unconditionally.

Love everyone unconditionally regardless of what’s in it for us.

And we’ve got a lot of love to share right here at Spirit of Christ. A lot to share in so many ways.

And one way we can share is by taking some time to get to know a little about the faith of so many of our Muslim neighbors and during the Holy month of Ramadan we have the perfect opportunity.

Now I don’t know a whole lot of details about the Muslim faith, but what I do know is that during the month of Ramadan, Muslims fast from all food and drink from sunup to sundown and that each day this fast is broken with a meal called an iftar.

And to help non-Muslim people gain a little understanding of the Muslim faith many mosques open their doors to outsiders occasionally and the one just down the street from Grace Lutheran in Bloomington will be doing so on Thursday May 23rd.

And so, if you might be interested in joining me for this event please register directly at - http://mnchurches.org/respectfulcommunities/interfaithprogramming/takingheart/registration.html

Once at the website search for - MCC / Masjid Ar-Rahman

May 23, 7:30 pm 8910 Old Cedar Avenue, Bloomington, MN 55425

And if anyone has any questions or needs help registering please contact me or Nikki in the church office and we will be happy to insist you.

This will be a great opportunity to maybe take a step towards breaking down some of our own misconceptions of the Muslim faith and so I hope you will consider joining me or maybe signing up to go one of the other mosques on another evening.

Blessings, Pastor Durk
Simple gesture, powerful positive results -- A while back, I was given a sheet of quotations from someone, saying, “maybe this is something you’d be able to use in the View.“

I said yes, there are some really inspirational kindness gems in there, and that I would try to work them into this space sometime. Apparently they were used in a presentation by another person, and her speech was well received.

I set the sheet aside, and basically forgot about it, until I was going through a stack of papers last week, and came across it. I think the little messages are worth reading; I will print a few of them below.

“I have learned . . . kindness from the unkind.” -- Kahlil Gibran

“Our primary purpose in this life is to help others. And if you can’t help them, at least don’t hurt them.” – Dalai Lama

“Why is that, even though kindness is free and available for all to give, only a limited number of our population ever unlocks the power of the positive influence by being kind?” – Unknown

“Perhaps the only legacy worth having is to have been known as a kind person.” – Unknown

“Anxiety weighs down the heart, but a kind word cheers it up.” – Proverbs 12:25

“No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted.” – Aesop

“You cannot do kindness too soon, for you never know how soon it will be too late.” – Ralph Waldo Emerson

“When I was young, I admired clever people. Now that I am old, I admire kind people.” – Abraham Heschel

“A warm smile is the universal language of kindness.” – William Arthur Ward

“The ideals which have guided my way, and time after time have given me the energy to face life cheerfully, have been kindness, beauty and truth.” - Albert Einstein

“Love and kindness are never wasted. They always make a difference. They bless the one who receives them, and they bless you, the giver.” – Barbara De Angelis

“When one person shows kindness to another person, God shows up.” – Steve Sjogren

“Constant kindness can accomplish much. As the sun makes ice melt, kindness cause misunderstanding, mistrust and hostility to evaporate.” – Albert Schweitzer


Have a great week.