

the Spirit

What's Inside:

Words from the Pastor

An invitation to a game night!

Our peanut butter, jelly, and healthy cereal collection for Bird Feeder

A schedule of worship assistants for April

And more!

We continue to livestream our Sunday services as well as invite those who are comfortable to worship in person with us. Masks are optional. Worship is each Sunday at 11:00am.

church email: infosoccommunity@gmail.com phone at (952)929-6465.

office hours: Mondays and Wednesdays from 9:00am—2:00pm

Find us online at www.spiritofchristcommunity.org , on Facebook, and Instagram.



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A Word from the Pastor...

As April unfolds and the season of Easter dawns upon us, we are drawn into the profound mystery and beauty of resurrection life.

It is a time when all of creation awakens from its wintery slumber, bursting forth with new life, and we are reminded of the transformative power of resurrection in our own lives.

Now, resurrection life is not merely a theological concept or a distant promise, but it is a present-day reality that can and does shape each of our lives in the here and now.

It is a life that invites us to embrace a new way of living that is marked by hope, transformation, and the abundant grace of God.

Now, one of the central themes of resurrection life is the idea of new beginnings.

A new beginning that calls you to embrace a spirit of growth and renewal in your own life.

And just as a seed buried in the earth must undergo a process of germination and growth before it can bloom into a beautiful flower, so too, you must nurture your own faith and allow it to flourish.

But in the busyness of your life, I know that it can be easy to lose sight of the importance of spiritual growth.

Thankfully, the season of Easter offers you a precious opportunity to rekindle your connection with the divine and cultivate a deeper relationship with your God.

And one way you can nurture your faith is through prayer and meditation because taking time each day to quiet your mind and speak with God will allow you to deepen your understanding of both you and your purpose in this world.

Yes, through prayer and meditation, you can seek guidance, find solace in times of trouble, and even express gratitude for the blessings in your life.

Now, another essential aspect of spiritual growth is community because just as a plant thrives when it is surrounded by nourishing soil and sunlight, you also will flourish when you are supported and surrounded by a loving and nurturing community of believers.

A loving and nurturing community of believers who choose to come together in worship, in fellowship, and in service to draw strength from one another as we journey together on the path of Jesus.

And to think none of this would be possible without the resurrection.

Yes, just as Jesus emerged from the tomb victorious over death, you also are invited to leave behind the old and embrace the new.



And whatever struggles, failures, or disappointments you may have experienced in the past, resurrection life offers you the chance to start anew, clothed in the forgiveness and grace of God.

Moreover, resurrection life also calls you to live with a sense of purpose and meaning because as a follower of Christ, you are continually being called to embody the values of the Kingdom of God.

A kingdom whose foundation is built upon a life of love, justice, compassion, and reconciliation.

Thus, it is through your words and actions that you bear witness to the transformative power of the resurrection and bring hope into this world you live in that is so often plagued by despair and brokenness.

In addition, resurrection life compels you to live with a sense of hope and expectancy, even in the midst of uncertainty and adversity, because now you know that death no longer has the final word.

That's why, as you journey through the ups and downs of life, you can take comfort in the knowledge that you serve a God who is intimately acquainted with suffering and who has promised to be with you always, leading you from death to life.

And so, may you embrace the transformative power of the resurrection in your own life always embodying the hope, love, and grace of Christ in all that you do.

May you be renewed in your faith and empowered to live as a witness, along with a community of other faithful followers, to the glorious truth that resurrection life is real and lasting.

And may you never ever forget that the season of Easter is, above anything else, a time to be reminded and give thanks that redemption is always possible for you.

Easter Blessings,

Pastor Durk



Calendar– April 2024

Saturday, April 6th

5:00pm game night

Thursday, April 11th

8:30am highway clean-up

7:00pm church council

Friday, April 19th

8:30am highway clean-up

Weekly

Sundays

9:00am Aldersgate United Methodist worship service (sanctuary)

10:00am Aldersgate fellowship time

11:00am Spirit of Christ worship service (sanctuary)

12:00pm Spirit of Christ fellowship time

1:30pm Like No Other Family Church worship service (sanctuary)

Mondays

9-2 Spirit of Christ office hours

7:00pm Boy Scouts (fellowship hall)

7:00pm Aldersgate Life Group (sanctuary, 1st and 3rd Mondays)

Tuesdays

9-2 Aldersgate office hours

5:30pm Women's AA (fellowship hall)

4-8pm Aldersgate bell choir rehearsals

Wednesdays

9-2 Spirit of Christ office hours

5:30pm Grace in the Park supper

6:00pm Grace in the Park pop-up choir rehearsal

6:30pm Grace in the Park Lenten service

Thursdays

9-2 Aldersgate office hours

6-9pm Aldersgate music rehearsals (sanctuary)

Fridays

7:00am N A (fellowship hall)

7:00pm Desire AA (fellowship hall)

Worship Assistants in April

April 7th - Jeanne (lector),
Dave, Pat, Lowell, Linda (ushers)

April 14th - Carolee (lector),
Jan, Clark, Karen, Carol (ushers)

April 21st – Carolee (lector),
Bret, Cheryl, Erik, Jennie (ushers)

April 28th - Jeanne (lector)
Dick, Nancy, LeRoy, Anne (ushers)



Social Action

Calendar for April to June 2024

April 2024

1-28 Bird Feeder Collection
2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Bread – at Westwood

May 2024

1-19 Bird Feeder Collection
7, 14, 21, 28 Bread – at Westwood
10 Shelter Meal

June 2024

1-30 STEP Collection
4, 11, 18, 25 Bread – at Westwood

Our Saviours Shelter Supper—May 10th

On Friday, May 10th, Spirit of Christ will serve dinner at the shelter. Our menu is still TBD. If you would like to serve or help in some other way, talk to Carolee or Mark by emailing coneheads985@msn.com or calling 952-935-5608.

Bird Feeder Collection

For April and May, Spirit of Christ will be collecting peanut butter, jelly and cereal for Bird Feeder. For cereal, the students are focusing on high protein and high nutrition items, so their suggestions are Kodiak protein pancake mix or oatmeal, Quaker protein oatmeal and non-sugar cereals. Bird Feeder also asked us to let people know that they would like the smaller size jars of peanut butter to distribute in student backpacks. Please consider adding PB and J or the types of cereals mentioned above to your April and May shopping lists. You can bring them to the table in the narthex and Social Action will deliver them to Bird Feeder for you! We will be collecting for all of April and through May 19.

Social Action Donations

Bird Feeder

Spirit of Christ donated fruit and vegetables to Bird Feeder in February. Thank you for supporting the students at St. Louis Park High School with healthy options to fill their backpacks each week.



Bread Collection

The bread bagging team delivered 765 pounds of bread to STEP in the month of February! We appreciate the ongoing support for the delivery that adds some variety to the items offered to the customers of the food shelf.

What's next for social action?

We welcome ideas you might have for Social Action initiatives and help with planning activities for 2024. Please let us know your thoughts by contacting a member of our committee. We also are thrilled to hear about projects that members are doing on their own to support others in need and we hope you enjoy reading about these efforts. If you have something to share, please tell us about the project! Your work to assist others is an inspiration to the whole congregation!

Get involved with social action

The Social Action Committee (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 SOC SAC (Deb Schmitz, Mark or Carolee Cohen, Renee Compo, Pat Latvala, Joanne Stone or Jeanne Worm) if you want to help or share a new idea!



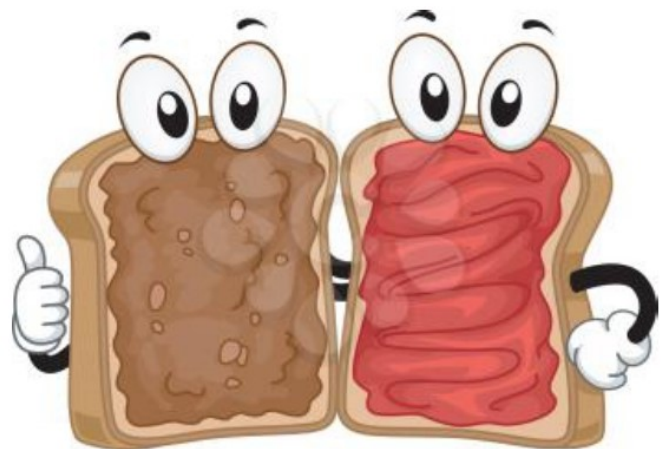
BIRD FEEDER

APRIL & MAY



Healthy Cereal

Small Jars of
Peanut Butter
And Jelly



(Small jars requested by Bird Feeder)

Please have in by May 19th



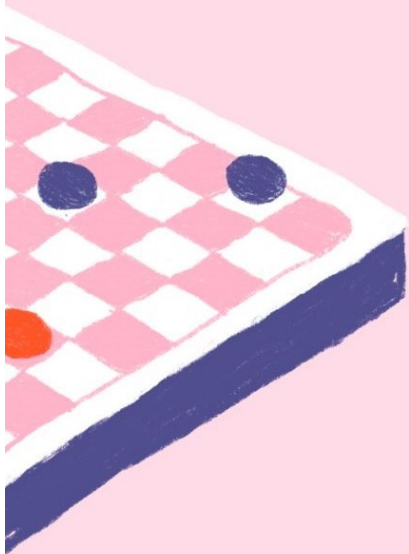
SPIRIT OF CHRIST

Game night!

Saturday, April 6th, 2024

5:00pm

SOC fellowship hall



**sloppy joes will be provided
bring a dish to share and
your favorite game!**

hosted by Nancy Latvala

