

April 2024

Dear Friends,

If you enter through the north entrance of the building, from the alleyway parking lot, you may notice the bulletin board items as you come in. Last week, a new display was put up – circles containing the words our current elders chose as personal core values. These values were part of a larger discussion about church and congregational core values. We asked the question: what matters to us?

While the obvious and immediate answer in a church might be “Christ matters,” we know it’s not as simple as that. Each church, each denomination, each iteration of Christianity has specific values that these groups uphold as important. Different churches focus on different things based on community experiences, personal preferences, socio-economic position, and more. Some churches emphasize baptism, others focus on evangelism, yet others focus on social issues, and so on.

Here at Sunrise, what we value is worthy of discussion because values are what drive any organization forward. When we know and name our values, these become the propulsion for how we live in the world. When we take these values that we name and align our actions with these values, it gives us purpose and drive.

The session, after working on their own core values, now look to you as a congregation to give your feedback about different aspects of church life, worship, demographics, and participation. We will be sending out a series of surveys that can be done online, by mail, or in person based upon your personal preference. The web addresses for the first two surveys are here, below. There will be elders who set up in the fellowship hall this spring to give members an opportunity to fill out these surveys in person.

Each church member - and active participants - are important in the makeup of Sunrise, and we look forward to hearing from you.

In Christ,

Pastor Jessica



Sunrise Membership Survey 1
<https://forms.gle/HWGUi8iy3SiRyNx79>

Sunrise Membership Survey 2
<https://forms.gle/bt41G8Fx9Efl6AMm6>



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SHARING OUR SUNRISE JOYS AND CONCERNS

"...may you be filled with the knowledge of God's will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you may lead lives worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to Him, as you bear fruit in every good work and as you grow in the knowledge of God." (Colossians 1:9-10)

As you read this we will be halfway through the matins of Holy Week. Of all the days in the church calendar these short early morning devotions are among the most spiritually fulfilling moments for me in my Christian life. Brought to us 55 years ago by Jim and Ruth Hickey, the simple congregation-led services truly fill my cup.

Most, if not all, of the simple messages are in my memory. And some of them have been referred to numerous times in this column over the years. Amazing how a simple twig cross tied together with twine has become the focal point for reflection for me during Holy Week over the years. Tied together by Jim and Ember Woods several years ago for a matin they led, the simplicity of its message is not lost on me. Placed beside that humble cross, a reminder of the sacrifice that was made for all of us that dark Friday, is a smooth stone representing the stone rolled away from the empty tomb, a candle to remember Christ's light, and a spring flower representing the new life in the resurrection.

Each morning as the sun rises to erase the darkness, I marvel at the gift God has given us in these simple gifts. Then my thoughts and prayers to begin the day always begin with the question, "What do we do with the empty cross, the empty tomb, the light and new life now that the Alleluias have been sung?" And the words of the hymn, "Walk worthy of the Lord" speak to me.

*"Walk worthy of the Lord, Come give your heart to Christ
Live always bearing fruit for Him. Live strengthened by his might.
Walk worthy of the Lord. All Power to His name.
Give Him glory. Give Him honor. Walk worthy of His name."*

As we strive to walk worthy, we are called to walk beside those who have lost loved ones. May we be the hand to hold, the light in the dark for those who grieve. This month we remember the Chigbrow family. Orville Chigbrow, son of Barb and brother of Eric, has gone to his eternal walk with the Lord. We pray for the family as they remember him.

We pray for God's healing touch for those sick or hurting. At this time we especially remember Rod and Dixy Paronto as Rod has suffered another setback with his health needing toe amputation and then other complications, and he remains in care. After spending weeks with pain in her shoulder, Ruth Hickey has undergone surgery to remove infection from the shoulder and is receiving long-term antibiotics. Prayers for full recovery. Helen DeVoss is improving after a week in the hospital and we are thankful she is home and feeling better, continuing to adjust to her life on dialysis. Beth Hoseck has been with her mother in South Dakota as she supports her during cancer surgery. Beth reports that the prognosis is good for her mom.

As we celebrate Palm Sunday we give thanks for the blessings of baptism for three of our younger members, Sophie and Grace Rusinski and Henry Harp. May we as a congregation support their families in nurturing them in the Lord. Our congregation will also be part of supporting Doug and Tammie Hickey on the long road to recovery during a benefit for them.

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We thank God for Doug's continued improvement and continue prayers for him. What a pleasure it was to welcome our longtime friend and member, Marlene Tesch McCauley, to worship on Sunday. She was in town from Billings celebrating her birthday. We have such wonderful memories of her years at Sunrise. Many families have had the blessings of families visiting this month for baptisms and Easter. We share in their joy.

The small, humble cross will stay on my kitchen counter for awhile - my heart always -- nudging me daily to try to walk worthy of the Lord; remembering the promises of Easter and the call to discipleship. May the Alleluias continue ringing!

Alleluia, Amen, Tana

"Therefore, be imitators of God, as beloved Children, and live in love as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us....." (Ephesians 5:1)

Omaha Presbyterian Seminary Foundation Info

Thank you all for your support as I begin this new endeavor working for Omaha Presbyterian Seminary Foundation (OPSF) part-time. Here's a little of what I'm doing for OPSF. At the end of 2023, OPSF received a \$1.2 million dollar grant from the Lilly Endowment for a new program called Synergos.

Synergos will pair first-call pastors with churches within the Synod of the Rocky Mountains (Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, and Utah). Churches within this synod can find it difficult to hire ministers for a variety of reasons - isolated geography, lower wages than coastal regions, and more.

My job has two primary components - find the first-call pastors, and find the churches to pair

them with. At the moment, this looks like a lot of leg-work, and a lot of Zoom calls, phone calls, and emails. The position is primarily remote - done from here in Great Falls. However, I will have times when I travel to seminaries, a potential church site, or to Lilly-sponsored events.

In some ways, it looks like this: the grant lays out the plan, and I implement it as best I can. It will be challenging but interesting and I look forward to sharing what I learn with Sunrise along the way. My job title is Synergos Residency Director.

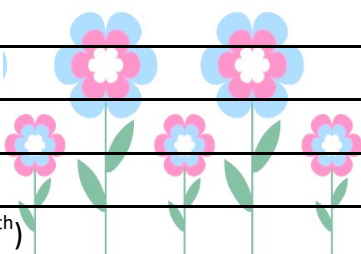
Pastor Jessica



Pastor Jessica's April schedule. Office hours will be modified based upon evening meeting needs.	Day of Week	Organization	Time
	Sunday	Sunrise	8:30-12:30
	Monday	Sunrise	8:30-5
	Tuesday	Sunrise	8:30-5
	Wednesday	Sunrise	8:30-12:30
	Wednesday	OPSF	1-5
	Thursday	Sunrise	8:30-5
	Friday	OPSF	8:30-5
	Saturday	OPSF	9-12

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April Calendar of Events			
Apr 2	Tues	6:30 pm	Worship Committee Meeting
Apr 4	Thur	10:00 am	Women's Bible Study
Apr 7	Sun	9:30 am	Worship
		10:45 am	Fellowship, Children's Sunday School
		11:00 am	Deacons' Meeting
Apr 14	Sun	9:30 am	Worship, Communion, Guest Speaker – Rev. Tim Lanham
		10:45 am	Fellowship, Children's Sunday School
Apr 15	Mon		Jessica out of office, Newsletter Deadline
Apr 16	Tues	6:30 pm	Finance + Stewardship + Memorials Meeting
Apr 17	Wed	6:00 pm	Faith + Outreach + Mission Meeting
Apr 18	Thur		Jessica out of office (Apr18 th - 19 th)
		10:00 am	Women's Bible Study
Apr 21	Sun	9:30 am	Worship, FISH Collection, Rogation Sunday, Guest Speaker – Grace Veterans Home
		10:45 am	Fellowship, Children's Sunday School
Apr 23	Tues	5:30 pm	Session
Apr 24	Wed		Newsletter Assembly
Apr 28	Sun	9:30 am	Worship
		10:45 am	Fellowship, Children's Sunday School
			TIM Talks at Glacier Camp (April 28 th - 30 th)



Deacons on call for April: Sandy Lambert & Janette Forsyth

Upcoming in Worship:

The Chigbrow family share their trip on the Journeys of Paul in worship on April 7.

Rev. Tim Lanham visits to share about Glacier Camp on April 14.

Rogation Sunday - turn in your form! on April 21, and guest speaker from Grace Veterans Home.

Mother's Day - muffins for mom during fellowship, May 12.

Guest speaker from Helping Hands (at First English Lutheran) on May 19.

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Reminder: When donating cans to the can shed, please remember to tie the bags they are donated in. Thank you for being committed to the aluminum can recycling project! We collect \$10-20 of cans per month and this money goes to provide shipping for our pill bottle reuse endeavors.



FISH Food Bank



	Feb '24	Year to Date
Families (non-Single)	47	83
Singles	47	101
Adults	128	247
Children	34	80
Meals	2,430	4,905
Pounds of Food	5,717	11,172

- Food Suggestions for April:**
- Peanut Butter
 - Jam & Jelly
 - Cold Cereal
 - Instant Oatmeal
 - Pancake & Syrups
 - Canned Fruit

Fish Updates:

- Thank you to all volunteers who donated their time the week of March 25-29.
- The next week to volunteer will be June 10th-14th
- If you would like to volunteer, please contact Maribeth Doan at 406 - 452 - 2727

Grown from the earth and on the land 

ROGATION SUNDAY IS ON THE WAY!
 TURN IN YOUR FAMILY FARM/RANCH
 INFORMATION FOR SPECIAL PRAYERS
 ON ROGATION SUNDAY, APRIL 21, 2024

PROPERTY NAME:

FAMILY NAME:

LOCATION:



Tear off and put into offering tray or drop off at church office

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For more information on upcoming events or registration, go to:

<https://www.glaciercamp.org/summer-camp>

Summer Theme *Transform, Don't Conform!*

“Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewal of your minds...”

Romans 12:2a

Join us for a transformative camp experience as the Spirit leads us to love God and love each other! Campers will learn to shine like light in the darkness, season life's blandness like salt, and find the less traveled road to life. Activities like games, crafts, and swimming will help campers make lifelong friends and memories!



Camp Calendar

L.I.T. Camp: June 23rd – July 3rd

Leaders in Training

Week 1: June 23rd – June 28th

Classic Camp

Week 2: June 30th – July 3rd

Mini Camp

Week 3: July 7th – July 12th

Christmas in July

Week 4: July 14th – July 19th

Adventure Camp

Week 5: July 21st – July 26th

H₂O Camp

Campers going into grades three and above are welcome every week of camp for activities specially tailored to their age group; junior, junior high, or senior high. Mini Camp, meanwhile, is exclusively for campers going into grades one and two.

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April Reading List	
April 1	Genesis 1:1-19
April 2	Genesis 1:20-2:4a
April 3	Song of Solomon 3:1-11
April 4	Psalms 118:1-2, 14-24
April 5	Mark 16:1-8
April 6	Psalms 133
April 7	John 12:44-50
April 8	1 John 2:3-11
April 9	1 John 2:12-17
April 10	Isaiah 26:6-10
April 11	1 John 2:18-25
April 12	1 John 2:26-28
April 13	Psalms 4
April 14	Psalms 135
April 15	Psalms 150
April 16	2 John 1:1-6
April 17	Proverbs 9:1-6
April 18	Psalms 23
April 19	Genesis 46:28-47:6
April 20	Genesis 48:8-19
April 21	Psalms 95
April 22	1 Peter 5:1-5
April 23	Revelation 7:13-17
April 24	Micah 7:8-20
April 25	Amos 8:1-7
April 26	Amos 8:11-13
April 27	Mark 4:30-32
April 28	Psalms 22:25-31
April 29	Psalms 80
April 30	James 3:17-18

April daily scripture readings based on the revised common lectionary

Looking at Faith & Life, Mission, and Outreach

At the end of 2023, the Session was looking at committees in terms of functionality and how they are working for Sunrise. This is something that churches do regularly to adjust to the needs of members, shifts in interest or demographics, and for other practical purposes.

It was for a practical purpose rather than shift in interest that led the Session to merge these two committees. It was a simple one: the committees had nearly identical members and each meeting of one committee always tied in work and projects of the other. It led to the question: *Why meet twice if the same people are here anyway and we talk about everything together?*

(At the same time, Session recognized that Memorials, while they sometime fund mission, are really a financial branch of the church. So Memorials was moved into Finance, Stewardship, and now Memorials.)

Back to Faith, Outreach, and Mission. As a combined committee, it has now become important for us to have a shared understanding of how these three areas of the church function together or separately. Using language from the denomination, we are looking at it this way:

Faith and Life are the activities of fellowship, togetherness, and church-community building that we engage in.

Outreach is any activity, in or out of the building, that potentially draws people to the church through participation or promotion.

Mission is any activity that has no tangible or intangible gain or potential gain for the church.

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Committees and Elders:

Admin, Personnel, & Social Media: Joe Hoseck, Scott Schull,
Buildings & Grounds: Travis Harp, Lee Hickey, Dale Lambert
Christian Education: Lee Hickey, Erica Rusinski
Faith, Outreach, & Mission: Norman Anderson, Lee Hickey, Joe Hoseck, Dale Lambert,
Carol Stilli
Finance, Stewardship, & Memorials: Joe Hoseck, Dale Lambert, Scott Shull
Nominating:
Worship: Norman Anderson, Lianna Gaskins, Travis Harp, Lee Hickey
Clerk of Session: Millie Sivak



Board of Deacons:

Chair: Ember Woods
Secretary/Treasurer: Janette Forsyth
Marilyn Andrews, Pam Chigbrow, Maribeth Doan, Tana Harp, Beth Hoseck, Sandy Lambert, Jacinte McCullough

«City», «State», «Zip»
«Address»
«First Names» «Last Name»

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