messenger

April 2023



# Pastor Peter Jonas



## Bible Passages That Have Helped Me Along the Way

### (Listed in Biblical order. Some with commentary)

Leviticus 19:34 When an alien resides with you in your land, you shall not oppress the alien. The alien who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the alien as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God.

#### And

Deuteronomy 5:15. Remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the LORD your God brought you out from there with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm; therefore the LORD your God commanded you to keep the sabbath day.

The story of the Exodus functions in a similar way for Jews as Jesus' death and resurrection functions for Christians. Both stories are the hub of the wheel and determine the logic of how everything else is understood. The Bible is first of all about God and what God has done, and only secondarily what we as humans should do. In the story of the Exodus we learn that above all, God hates injustice and unfairness. Meditating on the meaning of the Exodus leads one to empathy with those who are at a disadvantage because the story places the reader in the position of the enslaved and oppressed people. Empathy for suffering humans is enhanced when our imaginations are activated through this story of human suffering and God's power and compassion.

Luke 16:10ff. "Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much.<sup>11</sup> If then you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? <sup>12</sup> And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own?

Life is often made up of small tasks, and many tasks can seem insignificant. I do find myself repeating these verses quietly whenever I need to keep myself focused on the task at hand.

Luke 21:1. But on the first day of the week at early dawn, the women came to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared.

It is a source of constant amazement to me that the central hope of our faith is a story that begins in darkness, confusion, fear and misunderstanding. Life is a lot like that.

Romans 1:16. For I am not ashamed of the gospel; it is the power of Go for salvation to everyone who has faith.

(*Continued on page 2*)



Maundy Thursday - 5:45 at Grace Good Friday - Our Saviour's Lutheran—1:00 pm Easter Sunday - 9:30 am. First Communion Day





## (Pastor's message continued from page 1) I chose this verse to be read at my ordination.

1 Corinthians 13:12-13 For now we see through a glass darkly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. <sup>13</sup> And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

Colossians 1:17. Christ himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

#### Even when they feel like they are falling apart.

Revelation 22:1-2. Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.

The reality that my generation and the generations before have left behind an ecological crisis for our children is deeply troubling to me. But the great vision at the end of the book of Revelation inspires me to be an agent of earth's ecological healing during my lifetime. St. John portrays God's kingdom as the ultimate reconciliation of human habitation (the Holy City) and nature (the river and the tree of life). He also points the way forward in suggesting that the conflicts of the nations can be overcome as we become more aware of our common destiny as fellow inhabitants of one world.

Peace, Pastor Peter

## Here is the schedule of supply preachers at Our Saviour's and Grace April 30-June 25:

Apr 30. Scott Brown

| May 7. | Pastor Barbara Birkeland  |                        |
|--------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| May 21 | Pastor Barbara Birkeland. | (Graduate Recognition) |

June 4. Pastor James Jim Gordon June 18 Pastor Jim Gordon (Fathers Day)



# **Contact Information:**

Scott Brown W17255 OK Lane Whitehall, WI 54773 715-538-4686 Swrown003@gmail.com Pastor Barbara Birkeland 124 Janet Marie Lane Winona, MN 55987 507-470-0564 <u>bpbirkeland20199@gmail.com</u> Pastor Jim Gordon 1922 Mitchell Avenue Eau Claire, WI 54701 715-214-3432 jjgordonEC@gmail.com

May 14 Scott Brown (Mothers Day) May 28 Pastor Barbara Birkeland

June 11 Scott Brown

June 24 Scott Brown



<u>Pigeon Falls Nursing Care Center-P.O. Box 310-Pigeon Falls, WI 54760</u> Jeanette Gilbertson, Marian Miller & Arline Stuve

<u>Assisted Living- Pigeon Falls - P.O. Box 310-Pigeon Falls, WI 54760</u> Richard Eide

<u>Sunrise Manor - 36024 Park Street - Whitehall - 54773</u> Clinton Larson, & Ann Torrason

<u>Trempealeau County Health Care Center-W20410 WI #121—Whitehall-54773</u> James Windjue

<u>Grandview Nursing Home - 620 Grandview Avenue - Blair - 54616</u> Marilyn Speestra, Mavis Mitskogen & Donna Oates

<u>Meadowbrook Care Center-1311 Tyler Street-Black River Falls - 54615</u> Fern Moe

> <u>The Classic - Eau Claire</u> Joanne (Selkurt) Martin







## **Our Saviour's Lutheran Church**

Council Minutes—March 7, 2023

<u>Members Present</u>: Dave Anderson, Steve Lamberson, Barb Mathson, Kay Nelson, Clarice Laehn, Jacob Paulson and Lori Paulson.

Dave Anderson, council president called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

## Preparation:

- 1. *Opening Devotions:* Meeting opened with devotions by Clarice Laehn.
- 2. <u>Prayer Requests/Homebound:</u> None
- 3. <u>Communication from Congregation:</u> None

## **Communication/Action:**

- 1. **Secretary's Report:** Steve Lamberson made a motion to approve February 2023 minutes with a second by Kay Nelson. Motion carried.
- 2. **Treasurer's Report:** Steve Lamberson reported the following fund balances as of February 2023:

General Fund: \$34,800 On Going: \$11,600 Improvement: \$33,000

Steve Lamberson made a motion to approve the treasurer's report with a second by Clarice Laehn. Motion carried.

- 3. **Ministry Teams Updates:**
- a) <u>WELCA</u>: WELCA will be meeting at Grace Lutheran on April 13th .
- b) <u>Men's Brotherhood</u>: Nothing to report.
- c) <u>Council at Large</u>: Donations for various organizations can be left in the back of the church.
- d) Joanne Foss has volunteered to serve on Finance and Property and Melanie Sygulla has volunteered to serve on Parish Board.

## Celebration/Affirmation:

- a) Our Saviour's and Grace Lutheran will be holding a farewell brunch for Pastor Jonas at Our Saviour's on April 23<sup>rd</sup> following Sunday's service.
- b) The next council meeting is scheduled for April 4, 2023, at 6:30 p.m.

**Business Items:** Discussion held regarding finding someone to fill office secretary position.

#### Adjournment and Lord's Prayer:

Council president Dave Anderson called the meeting adjourned. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Lori Paulson, Council Secretary







## ATTENTION GRADUATES

The Senior Recognition is scheduled for Sunday, <u>May 21st.</u> We will recognize and honor the Whitehall High School Seniors of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church during the Sunday Worship Service. We would like to display photos of our seniors during the service through a slideshow presentation. We are asking parents of all seniors to email a senior and baby photo of their son or daughter with a brief notation of his/her future plans, to the church office as soon as possible <u>osluthwh@gmail.com</u>. We will also publish pictures of each senior in the next issue of the Messenger.

# Please keep the following in your prayers:

\*Mary Harnisch Johnson \*Mary Lou Beck \*Donna Fernholz

\*Arline Stuve \*Dawn Coburn \*Mavis Olson \*Lisa Jame



pril

\*Family and friends who mourn Helen Halvorson

# **Members in Service:**

Altar Guild –Brenda Loga, Marnie Anderson & Karen Witte

Altar Flowers—Kris Dubiel

Ushers - Peter, Riley and Wendy Herman

Power Point—David Anderson





# **Diaper Collection**

The Disposable Diaper Pantry in the Birkeland Hall Basement is running very low on supplies and the Life & Growth

Ministries is sponsoring a "Diaper Collection" thru the months of April and May.



All sizes of disposable diapers are welcome, but size 5 and larger are most in need at this time. Also Pullups and wipes are very welcome. Money or Walmart gift cards may also be donated and we will purchase the diapers. Please bring your donations to the church Narthex. Thank you for your continued support to those in need in our communities.

The Trempealeau County ADRC Office has also reached out with request of Adult Diapers, sizes L and XL and blue mattress pads.

# Thank you Pastor Jonas!

We will be holding a social gathering after the 9:30

worship service on Sunday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> in the church basement to visit with Pastor Jonas and wish him a fond farewell and best wishes in his retirement.



# NOISY OFFERING FOR APRIL

Our Noisy Offering in April will go to Our Saviour's WELCA to help fund the creation and shipping of Mission Kits and quilts throughout the world. In a year's time our women ship approximately 40 health care kits, 40 school kits, 10 baby kits and numerous quilts to Lutheran World Relief.

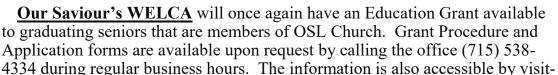
The cost of shipping has risen to nearly \$2.50 per kit for a total of over \$250. Your donation will be put to wonderful use in preparing and delivering these much needed supplies to people throughout the world.







# **ATTENTION GRADUATING SENIORS!**



ing our church website: *oslcwhitehall.org* under <u>Coming Events.</u> All completed applications should be sent to the church office. P. O. Box 455, ATTN: Secretary, Whitehall, WI 54773 or Kathy Gauger, 35595 Claire Street, Whitehall, WI 54773,

ckmlgaug@gmail.com. All applications are due no later than May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023.



The first week in April is Holy Week, so our monthly meeting will be on the second Thursday. Grace in Pleasantville will host Our Saviour's Women of ELCA on Thursday, <u>April 13th</u> at 1:30 pm, Bible Study will be led by Pastor Peter followed by a short business meeting. This will be the last meeting Pastor Peter will join us. Coffee & dessert will be served. All are welcome to join us. Hope to see you there!

## **Birthday Boxes**

During the months of April & May we will be collecting items for the Birthday Boxes that Western Dairyland puts together for families in need that request them. There will be a collection box in the narthex. Items needed are cake mixes, cans of frosting, candles, birthday napkins, hats & banners, small gifts (jump ropes, balls & small dolls, trucks & toys) & small quilts and/or blankets. Thank you for any & all help with this project. Western Dairyland distributes over 200 of these boxes every year so you can understand the need is great.



Women of the ELCA Dairyland Conference of Peace Lutheran of Pigeon Falls are sponsoring a <u>Morning of</u> <u>Renewal</u> on Wednesday, April, 12, 2023.

8:30 am – Registration and coffee
9:30 am – Program and Meeting
11:00 am – Guest Speaker – Deacon Lidixe Montoya from El Salvador Central America
12:00 – Lunch

Registration fee is \$15.00/person and due by April 5, 2023. Make checks payable to WELCA. Contact Karen Zuber at 715-287-4747 or <u>zubergirl.kz@gmail.com</u> Due to the meal being catered, late registrations cannot



## Easter Message from Bishop Laurie Skow-Anderson April 2023

Matthew 28 After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it... the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for he has been raised, as he said... go quickly and tell his disciples."

#### Dear Northwest Synod of Wisconsin,

Join me and that great cloud of witnesses this Easter in the acclamation: Christ is Risen, He is Risen indeed, Alleluia!

The gospel reading for this Easter is from the book of Matthew. Matthew is the only gospel writer that records an **earthquake** on Easter morning. The women arrive at the tomb and are greeted by an earthquake, an angel rolling back the stone, and the news that their Lord and Savior wasn't there, JESUS HAD BEEN RAISED FROM THE DEAD. What? The women were filled with shock and fear. The aftershocks of this earthquake are still felt. The news that death doesn't win and is defeated by the power of God in Christ Jesus continues to shock and amaze us.

What if we imagined Easter not as a lovely spring ritual filled with pastel-colored eggs and candy but as the violent earthquake that it is? Few living in the Midwest have experienced an earthquake. A pastor born in California remembers her mother putting rubber bands on the kitchen cupboard handles so the china dishes wouldn't fall out when there was an earthquake. When has a death of a loved one shaken the foundation of your world? When have you realized how fragile life can be? Christ's resurrection from the dead, his victory over sin, death, and the devil shakes up everything. It is the good news that can even shake us loose from our grief.

What if we experienced Easter as a violent earthquake more like a fresh egg dropped to the floor than one hardboiled and beautifully decorated? What if the Easter Earthquake shakes us awake, shakes everything out of the cupboards and closets so we are forced to do spring cleaning and decide what to put back and what to throw out? What if we get rid of stuff that doesn't work and give more space to what's important? What is really important? What is God's will for you? What are our Easter priorities?

What if this year the Easter Earthquake cracks open and rolls away the stone from our hearts, shakes loose old ideas, breaks down rock-hard prejudices, and opens us up to new ways to love our neighbor and to share this amazing good news that Jesus lives? What new life might rise up from the rubble? What new relationships might develop? Like a chick struggles to break free of the egg's shell, new beginnings are rarely easy, but they are worth it.

The good news is that Christ's resurrection from the dead and his victory over death is good news even to those who have experienced a literal shifting of tectonic plates beneath the earth. On February 6, 2023, a 7.8 magnitude earthquake hit Turkey and Syria leaving over 50,000 people dead and hundreds of thousands more wounded, displaced, or homeless. More than 10,000 aftershocks have been felt since February 6 leading to more deaths, fear, and trauma. The aftershocks will continue for a long time.

This Easter, in response to the earthquake that opened the tomb and to the good news that Jesus has been raised from the dead, I encourage you to give a gift to the Lutheran Disaster Response to help the victims of the Earthquake in Turkey and Syria. Here is a link to help you do that. <u>https://community.elca.org/middle-east-crisis?</u> \_ga=2.89763675.1129066314.1679579365-256581953.1608055964

Suddenly there was a great earthquake...

In Christ, Bishop Laurie Skow-Anderson

Rev Jauri Sha . Odum



# **Easter Flowers**



## In Loving Memory of

- ➤ Willard & Helen Halverson by Jim & Kay Nelson
- Frank Coburn by Deloris J. Coburn
- Granddaughter Kari by Deloris J. Coburn
- Grandson Neil by Deloris J. Coburn
- ➤ John Witte by Karen Witte
- Marv & Ardis Witte by Karen Witte
- Fred & Janice Chamberlain by Karen Witte
- Esther & Alvin Nelson by Jim & Kay Nelson
- Willard Halverson by Jim & Kay Nelson
- ➤ Marvin & Thelma Olson by Jim & Kay Nelson
- Howard & Carolyn Tjoflat by Jeff & Ellen Hauser
- Don & Russell Laehn by Clarice Laehn
- Leonard & Helen Foss; Victor & Samuel Foss from their Family
- Lorraine Nehring by Her Family
- Raymond & Alma Loga, Hugh & Alvina Goard, & John & Viola Dunham by Dave & Brenda Loga
- Francis & Hazel Foss; Ruby & Roman Thomas by Joanne & Les Foss
- > Ben Ringstad; Ken & Nat Rusk by Sharon Ringstad
- Bennie & Stella Ringstad; Clarence & Tina Waldera; Emma & August Ringstad by Rich & Bev Waldera
- Dragan & Anne Pantovich by Barb Mathson

# In Honor of

- Sherry Pabst by Jim & Kay Nelson
- Our Saviour's Senior Choir by Jeff & Ellen Hauser
- Our 4 Grandsons: Devin Klomsten and Jackson, Gannon & Bennett Loga by Dave & Brenda Loga
- > Our Godchildren, Mikayla, Chloe, and Darren by Kris & Duane Dubiel
- Elizabeth & Matthew Edwards by Karen Witte
- Our 15 Grands by Joanne & Les Foss
- Marilyn Speerstra by Jack & Mary Speerstra

Thank you for blessing our church with Easter flowers. You are welcome to take your Easter flowers home after the Easter service.

# Our Saviour's fimamces

| DISBURSEMEN                                     | NT & GIVING RE | ECEIIPTS - MA | ARCH 1ST THRU MARCH 31ST,  | 2023        |  |  |  |  |
|---|----------------|---------------|----------------------------|-------------|--|--|--|--|
| Disbur  | rsements:      |               |                            |             |  |  |  |  |
| Administration                                  | \$1,678.76     |               |                            |             |  |  |  |  |
| Physical Plant                                  | \$2,234.10     |               | As of March 25:            |             |  |  |  |  |
| Salaries & Benefits                             | \$10,255.85    |               |                            | 404 000 00  |  |  |  |  |
| Benevolence                                     | \$0.00         |               | General Fund =             | \$31,283.05 |  |  |  |  |
| Parish Expense                                  | \$0.00         |               | On-Going Fund =            | \$13,316.41 |  |  |  |  |
| Dues and Fees                                   | \$0.00         |               | Improvement Fund =         | \$34,009.56 |  |  |  |  |
| Total Disbursements = \$14,168.71               |                |               |                            |             |  |  |  |  |
| Giving Receipts                                 |                |               |                            |             |  |  |  |  |
| Simply Giving Total =                           | \$3,632.30     |               | General Fund Total =       | \$8,212.34  |  |  |  |  |
| On-Going Total =                                | \$2,310.00     |               | Improvement Fund - Total = | \$180.00    |  |  |  |  |
| February, 2023 Giving Grand Total = \$14,334.64 |                |               |                            |             |  |  |  |  |
| 👗 Ar  | oril           | Bir           | <b>thday</b> :             | 5           |  |  |  |  |



- 2 Parker Windjue
- 3 Keith Johnson, Eric Herman
- 4 Jeanette Gilbertson, Carter Semb
- 6 Debra Oates
- 7 Dale Lyngen
- 9 Brianna Glanzman
- 11 Lori Berg, Cody Blaha, Liam Hegge, Shay Olson
- 12 Nicholas Koxlien, McKenna Pientok, Savannah Rieck
- 14 Taytum Koxlien
- 16 Linda Blaha, Brenda Loga
- 17 Denise Lindberg
- 18 James Nelson
- 19 Addison Herman, Wendy Herman
- 22 Chase Hanvold
- 24 Sue Kohnert, Adison Pronschinske, Isaiah Gilbertson
- 27 Mary Speerstra, Ann Toraason
- 29 David Blaha, Corbin Ehrat
- 30 Mason Pientok, James Schorbahn







| Sun   | Mon                                   | Tue  | Wed  | Thu  | Fri   | Sat       |
|---|---------------------------------------|--|--|--|---|-----------|
|   |                                       |  |  |  |   | 1         |
| 2<br>Sunday Worship-<br>9:30 am<br>Sunday School-<br>10:30 am<br>Palm Sunday<br>First Communion<br>Class—10:30 am<br>Baking Bread | 3                                     | 4<br>Quilters 8:30 -<br>Noon<br>Sunrise Manor-<br>1:30 pm<br>Our Saviour's<br>Council 6:30PM | -<br>-   | 6<br>Pigeon Falls<br>Care Center—<br>10:30 am<br>Maundy Thurs-<br>day Service:<br>Grace -5:45 pm | Z<br>Good Friday—<br>Service: Our Sav-<br>iour's at 1:00 pm | 8         |
| 9<br>Sunday Worship-<br>9:30<br>First Communion<br>Day<br>No Sunday School  | <u>10</u><br>Office will be<br>closed | 11   | <u>12</u><br>Bible Study 9:30PM<br>In-Class Confirmation<br>at 2:45 pm | 13   | 14  | <u>15</u> |
| <u>16</u><br>Sunday Worship-<br>9:30 am<br>Confirmation Sun-<br>day   | 17                                    | <u>18</u><br>Quilters 8:30 -<br>Noon   | <u>19</u><br>Bible Study 9:30PM<br>Grace Council-7:00 pm               | <u>20</u>  | 21  | 22        |
| 23<br>Sunday Worship-<br>9:30 am<br>Sunday School-<br>10:30 am<br>Party for Pastor  | 24                                    | <u>25</u>  | 26<br>Bible Study 9:30am<br>Food Pantry - 11: to<br>1:00 pm            | 27   | 28  | <u>29</u> |
| <u>30</u><br>Sunday Worship-<br>9:30 am<br>Sunday School-<br>10:30 am   |                                       |  |  |  |   |           |

#### "Sharing God's Love With All"

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church 36197 Main Street P.O. Box 455 Whitehall, WI 54773

> Return Service Requested



Pastor: Peter Jonas Pastor Cell Phone: 608-323-2006 Pastor Email: pastoroslc@gmail.com Office Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

Church Secretary: Sherry M. Pabst Church Office: 715-538-4334 Church E-mail: <u>osluthwh@gmail.com</u> Church Website: <u>oslcwhitehall.org</u>

Check us out on Facebook at: <u>Our Saviour's Lutheran Church of Whitehall, WI</u> and <u>United in Faith Parish</u> and <u>OS Sunday–School</u> and <u>OSLC Youth</u>.



# Osseo Evangelical Lutheran Church

SPRING SALAD LUNCHEON Wednesday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> - Noon

Sue Warner, the apron lady will be presenting her program at the W/ELCA Spring Luncheon Find your favorite Apron, new, old, or your grandmothers and wear or bring it to the Salad Luncheon. Please bring a salad to share and invite your friends and neighbors.



