



# The Messenger – April 2025



## Holy Week & Easter Schedule

**April 13th:** 10:00 am Palm Sunday/Sunday of the Passion

**April 17th:** 7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Service



**April 18th:** 7:00 pm Good Friday Service

### **April 20<sup>th</sup> Easter Activities:**

6:30 am Easter Sunrise Service

7:30-9:30 am Breakfast Served by  
Spring Garden Youth

10:00 am Easter Festival Service



## First Communion Instruction and Seder Meal

**Saturday, April 26th**

The Instructional Class for **4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Graders** is from 1 pm-3:30 pm,  
with the Seder Meal at 4 pm.

## Notice of a Congregational Election Meeting and Gratitude Meal on April 27, 2025

The Spring Garden Congregational Meeting and Gratitude Meal will take place on April 27, 2025 in the church basement immediately following the 10 am Worship Service.



### **SAVE THE DATE!**

We are grateful for our church.

We are grateful for the mission of our church.

We are grateful for our special congregation who fulfills the mission of the church.

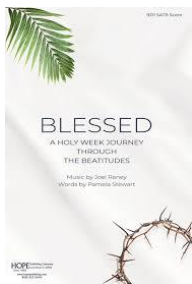
Thank you for all you do in church and outside of church to "Build a Rural Ministry."

Please join us as we break bread with our members. Enjoy Swedish meatballs and gravy, mashed potatoes, corn, bread, bars, and coffee. This meal is free for everyone!

**TACK SA MYCKET!**



## Choir Cantata – "Blessed"



The Spring Garden Choir will present a special musical cantata, "Blessed" as part of the Maundy Thursday worship services on April 17th. This musical journey will explore Holy Week through the lens of the Beatitudes. Through this musical experience, we will hear that Christ is not only the One who blesses us but, by becoming one of us, is himself blessed.

The musical will take us through Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday in the 45-minute presentation. With music by Joel Raney and words by Pamela Stewart, in present tense, as though the events of Holy Week are happening in real time, we experience the Beatitudes with a new understanding.

The choir hopes you will join us for this service that will include communion and the stripping of the altar as part of our Holy Week practices. The Maundy Thursday Services begins at 7:00 pm April 17th.

Please join us on this journey.

David Roinas, Music Director/Organist



## QUILTING OPPORTUNITIES

**The Afternoon Quilters** will meet at  
1:00 pm on  
Thursday, April 10th.

**The Baby Quilt Ministry** will meet at  
7:00 pm on  
Monday, April 21<sup>st</sup>.

Anyone is welcome to join!



## Book Chatter

The next Book Chatter meeting will be on Thursday, May 15<sup>th</sup>, at 7 pm,  
at the home of Carol Olson.

They will be discussing The Magnificent Lives of Marjorie Post by Allison Pataki.



### Checkbook Balances

January 30, 2025: \$62,474.13

February 28, 2025: \$55,790.62

*"Building A Rural  
Family In Christ"*



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## From the Pastor...

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

During the Second World War, an 18-year-old German, Jürgen Moltmann, was drafted to serve in Hitler's army. Assigned to an anti-aircraft battery, he experienced the horror of watching fellow soldiers being incinerated in fire bombings. After surrendering to the British, he spent three years in prison camps. He wrote that he often saw other German prisoners "collapsed inwardly, how they gave up all hope, sickening for the lack of it, some of them dying."

Moltmann had not grown up as a Christian, but an American chaplain gave him an Army-issue New Testament and book of Psalms. He read the Psalms and found something he desperately needed: hope. He became convinced that God was present with him, "even behind the barbed wire." After being transferred to a camp run by the YMCA, Moltmann learned Christian beliefs, and experienced the love and the acceptance of the local population. Jürgen Moltmann found new life in Christianity after seeing only death in the Second World War. The gospel was life-giving good news.

But wait, there's more. The risen Christ was moving ahead of Moltmann, leading him into an unexpected future. After the war, Moltmann studied at university and eventually became a Christian theologian and focused on the ideas that God is present with us in our suffering, and that God is leading us to a better future. Both ideas come out of the story of Jesus, and both come out of Moltmann's personal story as well. Easter Sunday is the beginning of the "laughter of the redeemed," he says; it is "God's protest against death." God is not satisfied with the way the world is today, and he intends to make all things new.

In his book, *Jesus Christ for Today's World*, Jürgen Moltmann pointed out that "Christ's sufferings are not exclusive: they are not just his sufferings. They are inclusive, our sufferings too and the sufferings of the time in which we are living. His cross stands between our crosses, our brother's (and sister's) cross, as a sign that God himself participates in our suffering and takes our pains on himself. The suffering Son of Man is so much one of us that the unnumbered and unnamed, tortured, and forsaken human beings are his brothers and sisters."

Moltmann quotes Jon Sobrino's biography of Archbishop Romero of El Salvador to elaborate: "In the crucified people of history the crucified God became present to him. In the eyes of the poor and oppressed of his people he saw the disfigured face of God." In Moltmann's words, "... No suffering can cut us off from this companionship of the God who suffers with us. The God of Jesus Christ is the God who is on the side of the victims and the sufferers, in solidarity with them." When speaking of Good Friday and Easter Sunday, Jürgen Moltmann said, "God weeps with us so that we may someday laugh with him."

Jürgen Moltmann is one of my favorite theologians; if you look in my office you will see a whole shelf of his books in the bookcase. Moltmann has inspired me through his words and enlightened me in my walk of faith in Jesus.

As you journey through the remainder of Lent and into Holy week, may you find hope in the cross. May you discover that when you suffer you are not alone. May you know that God in Christ suffers with you. May you experience the hope and joy found in the empty tomb. And may you share the hope of the cross and empty tomb of Jesus with someone who needs to hear it.

May the hope we have in Christ Jesus guide you all of your days.

In the Hope of Christ,

Pastor Tim



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### **SCAM WARNING!**

Please be aware that there has been an increase in the number of emails and texts from people who are trying to take advantage of church members and their giving nature.

The Bishop (or Synod Offices), Pastor Tim, Church Council Members, and Church Staff Members will not email or text church members asking for the purchase of money orders, or for them to buy gift cards and then give out the numbers and codes.

If you receive any "emergency" donation requests, please call the church office or Pastor Tim directly (do not use the phone number or email address in the scam message) to verify the information.

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## Spring Garden Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes – March 11, 2025

**In Attendance:** Marcia Dicke, Jay Olson, Pastor Tim Maybee, Ruthie Sjoblom, Heidi Anderson, Maggie Wilson, Steve Haggstrom, Lynnette Sjoquist, Financial Secretary – Pam Davis, and Treasurer – Rob Lorentz

**Call to Order:** Vice President Marcia Dicke called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. in the church social hall. Opening devotions were given by Pastor Tim.

**Secretary's Report:** A motion was made by Maggie, seconded by Steve, and carried to approve the minutes of the February 11, 2025, council meeting.

**Financial Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports:** Pam's report showed a total of \$ 23,163.00 in pledges through February 28, 2025. Rob's report showed that the checkbook balance on February 28, 2025, was \$55,790.62. A motion was made by Heidi, seconded by Ruthie, and carried to approve the financial reports.

### **Pastor's Report:**

Vice President: I would like to officially welcome Marcia Dicke as our interim vice president. And hopefully she will continue to serve as vice president after our April election.

Youth: To help cover the cost of our youth mission trips and camps, the youth are selling Sargent's gift cards. Each card is worth \$20 and a portion of the sale goes to youth ministry. Once we run out, we can order more so please buy your Sargent's gift cards now because Spring is just around the corner. If you cannot get in touch with a Youth to sell you a card, come and see me and I'll be happy to sell you a card or five or ten.

Pastoral Calls: In February I made 14 pastoral calls.

Time & Talent: Reminder: when looking for new members of our committees and boards please use the ministry volunteer list from the time & talent sheets. Also, please try to include new members or people who have not worked in that area before.

Worship: I am disappointed that we did not get to have an Ash Wednesday service. Although we were able to give the ashes on Sunday. As I mentioned last month my plan for the next couple of years is to base our Wednesday night lent worship/study on Luther's Small Catechism. This year we will study two Wednesdays on the Ten Commandments (love God and love neighbor) and three Wednesdays on the Apostles Creed. In 2026 we will then study the Lord's Prayer and prayer. Easter is April 20 and we will be having a Holy Humor Sunday the second Sunday of Easter on April 27.

Reminder: we will have worship outside again this summer but this year we will do this every Sunday with communion on the first and third Sunday. After worship service on the second Sunday two of our committees or ministry teams prepare a simple lunch and we would play games and enjoy the new playground equipment. This would be in June, July and August. We could move this monthly event indoors in the fall.

Adult Education: At the end of the month our Adult Bible study started the Book of Acts. We continue to meet on Thursday nights at 6:30 when there is not a book club. We are doing the study both in person and by Zoom.

Good Earth Village: On March 2, Matt and Amanda Wilson join me at the Good Earth Village annual meeting. Below is Matt & Amanda's report:

Matt and I had the privilege of attending the Good Earth Village Annual Meeting on Sunday, March 2nd. There were roughly 50 people in attendance that included pastors, donors, and volunteers who support Good Earth Village's mission. The executive council shared their reports on the progress in their respective areas. Two items that were noteworthy is that GEV received a substantial gift to help offset costs to rebuild cabins and help with sustaining GEV. The second is the new offerings of programs that the Director of Programs and the Director of Hospitality discussed. We also heard from Lowell Barr about the History of the camp.

Good Earth Village not only offers a wide variety of summer camp opportunities, but they offer retreats for families, women, and men. GEV offers summer camp opportunities for children in grades kindergarten through twelfth grade. As well as a preschool day for kids ages 3-5, and two opportunities for a weekend family camp throughout the summer.

They also offer a Women's Day Retreat on March 29th and One Year to Live Men's Retreat May 16th-18th.

It would be great to see members of our congregation attend these programs and events that Good Earth Village offers.

Amanda & Matt Wilson

Pastor Vacation Dates: January 3, May 20-29, July 13-22 (July 4-12 I am on the Youth Mission Trip), August 13-21, and December 26-31

Goals for 2025: (From my Annual Report)

1. Growing together in our understanding of what it means to be a disciple of Jesus in our church and home life.
2. Working together to get our new playground equipment set up and running for the children, young people, and some adventurous adults.

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*March 11, 2025 Church Council Minutes continued...*

3. Growing in our outreach into the world with the love of Christ so that others may experience God's grace.
4. Growing in our stewardship or the sharing of our Time, Talent, & Treasure (T3) so that we can fulfill the mission and ministry to which God has called us.
5. To continue to focus on adult education.

#### **Action Items:**

1) *Church access key audit – Everyone please bring your church keys to the meeting:* At Pastor Tim's request, an audit was made of the keys issued to the council members.

2) *Converting the PPP designated fund and Emergency Relief Fund into a "Professional Development Fund":* Rob explained the history for the creation of the PPP Loan Reimbursement fund, which has a present balance of \$8,000.00, and the Emergency Relief Fund, which has a present balance of \$1,348.68. Pastor Tim explained the idea behind creating a Professional Development Fund to be used to permit Spring Garden staff to take part in opportunities to develop and enhance their ability to serve the congregation. This fund would be separate from the funds set aside for the pastor's continuing education/books & journals, which is already in the budget.

A motion was made by Lynette, seconded by Ruthie, and carried to convert the PPP Loan Reimbursement fund and the Emergency Relief Fund into a Professional Development fund.

3) *Reimbursing David Roinas up to \$2,250.00 for expenses he will incur to attend the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians (ALCM) national biennial conference in Raleigh-Durham, North Carolina, from August 4-8, 2025:* A motion was made by Steve, seconded by Heidi, and carried to use funds from the newly established Professional Development Fund to reimburse David Roinas in an amount up to \$2,250.00 for expenses David will incur to attend the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians.

4) *Set Agenda for the April 27th Congregational Election Meeting:* Plans were made to prepare for the Gratitude Meal that will be served by the Stewardship Board and the council in the church social hall immediately following the worship service. Swedish meatballs and gravy, mashed potatoes, corn, buns, bars, coffee and water will be served. The congregational election meeting will follow the meal. The council also discussed potential nominees for the following positions up for election. We are still looking for nominees to serve on the Nominating Committee and as the council representative for the Parish Life & Outreach Board.

5) *Planning the April 2, 2025, Lenten supper:* Plans were made for serving the supper.

#### **Board and Committee Reports**

##### ***Worship & Music–Ruthie Sjoblom:***

- David will be away on Sunday, March 30. Lowell will accompany the service on guitar. A check will be needed for Lowell for that Sunday.

- David will be away for the April 2 Lenten Service. Lenten services and Holy Week services have been planned. Easter flower orders are available at church and will need to be turned in by March 30.

- Pam will follow up with the Executive Board regarding reimbursing David for his membership to the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians (ALCM) and for registration paid to attend the ALCM national biennial conference in August that we discussed at our February meeting.

- The Worship and Music Board will meet on Sunday, April 6 for the All-Board meeting

***Faith Formation–Maggie Wilson:*** Faith Formation Committee met February 18th. Youth will be selling gift cards this year instead of flowers. 4th and 5th graders will participate in the Seder Meal April 26th. The time is still being considered. We will be partnering with Umland church again this summer for Vacation Bible School. More details to come.

***Parish Life & Outreach–Heidi Anderson:*** We are still working on the directory.

***Church Property–Steve Haggstrom:*** Rob had heard our church property insurance could go up by as much as 40%. He contacted Church Mutual Insurance about it, and it could very well be a reality, let's hope not. They did send out some forms for us to fill out, so we are more insurable. Electrical inspections/surveys are helpful/nearly mandatory; as our roof inspections and lightning suppression are quickly becoming a requirement for any church with a steeple.

After the Ash Wednesday storm, the county pushed up a windrow of snow at least 4' tall. Temps were going to be in the single digits that night, and my thought was that it was going to be an ice cube in the morning. To be safe, I plowed the big lot that night.

***Stewardship–Lynette Sjoquist:*** Stewardship committee met on Sunday, March 9 to make preliminary plans for the Gratitude Meal in conjunction with the Congregational Meeting on April 27.

1. Council needs to determine the location of the Congregational Meeting - upstairs or downstairs.
2. Serve the meal and then conduct the meeting?
3. Menu: Swedish Meatballs and gravy, mashed potatoes, corn, buns, bars, coffee and water.

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March 11, 2025 Church Council Minutes continued...

4. Rob Lorentz has offered to source groceries.

5. Council members and Stewardship committee members are asked to “join in the fun” - with hosting, cooking, serving and cleanup. Sue Safe has also volunteered to help!

**Missions Board—Christy Collins:** Missions will be serving the first Lenten Meal on Wed 3/12/25. We are hosting a food drive to support the Cannon Falls Food Shelf for MN March FoodShare Month.

**Executive Committee:** The Executive Committee met to discuss converting the PPP designated fund and Emergency Relief Fund into "Professional Development Fund" and recommending that the congregation council reimburse David Roinas up to \$2,250.00 for expenses he will incur to attend the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians (ALCM) national biennial conference in Raleigh-Durham, North Carolina, from August 4-8, 2025.

**Archives Committee:** Archive Committee sorted through a bin of old pictures – we filed away those from various activities and celebrations and events – offering the rest to anyone wanting them!

We are also putting some old and unused altarware into storage for possible displays in the future!

Next thing we are working on is our “Search & Rescue” event starting in April – more info about that later on!!!

**Mission Endowment Fund Committee:** Did not meet this month.

A motion was made by Ruthie, seconded by Heidi, and carried to approve the foregoing board and committee reports.

**Church Calendar Review:** April 2, 2025 – Council Serves Lenten Supper; April 20, 2025 – Easter; April 27, 2025 – April Congregational Meeting/Gratitude Meal; May 4, 2025 – All Boards Meeting

**Agenda for Next Meeting:** TBD

**Announcements:**

Next council meeting: April 8, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.

Closing prayer next month: Christy

Pam’s Helper: March – Jay, April – Christy

**Adjournment:** The closing prayer was given by Jay. A motion was made by Ruthie, seconded by Steve, and carried to adjourn at 8:21 p.m.

Jay Olson, Secretary

*Subject to Approval*



**Dorothy Leslie Wilson**

Baptized February 23, 2025

Born October 17, 2024

Daughter of: Matt & Amanda Wilson

Sponsors: Chad Johnson, Jamie Hanson



**Welcome to the Spring Garden Family!**



**Archive Committee Update**



“Search and Rescue” (English) “Soka och Radda” (Swedish) was first introduced to the congregation in the 2023 Annual Report and the Archive Committee is now ready to offer that service. The church office often gets requests from people outside our church membership concerning what information our church records can provide them about their family – past and present. Often, we also get requests from our own membership about family history. To facilitate those requests, we are offering a block of time on selected days during the next couple months when families can sign up to search the books and rescue whatever information we may be able to provide. We have our own ‘ancestry expert’ who is willing and able to meet with the families and discover what we can. If family names can be found in our historic books, those relatives can take pictures for their own archival work. More information will be provided in church bulletins and weekly email announcements.

**The Messenger**  
**Spring Garden Lutheran Church**  
**April 2025**



*"Building a Rural Family in Christ"*



**Church Council Members & Staff**

Pastor Tim Maybee		608-381-9661 revtmaybee@gmail.com
President	Paul Olson	612-437-6619
Vice-President	Marcia Dicke	
Secretary	Jay Olson	651-442-8123
Treasurer	Rob Lorentz	507-291-0645
Financial Secretary	Pam Davis	507-263-5657
Worship & Music	Ruthie Sjoblom	651-428-6171
Faith Formation	Maggie Wilson	651-380-4913
Parish Life & Outreach	Heidi Anderson	507-298-5691
Church Property	Steve Haggstrom	507-319-5651
Stewardship	Lynnette Sjoquist	651-245-6619
Missions Board	Christy Collins	507-202-5993
Music Director	David Roinas	
Custodian	Jim Hoffman	
Administrative Asst.	Rachel Benson	507-263-5532

**Spring Garden Lutheran Church**

P.O. Box 237

Cannon Falls, MN 55009

**Phone: 507-263-5532**

E-mail: [springgardenlutheran@gmail.com](mailto:springgardenlutheran@gmail.com)

Website: [www.spring-garden.org](http://www.spring-garden.org)

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**Cannon Falls, MN**

April 2025

**JOURNEY  
THROUGH  
HOLY WEEK  
WITH US.**

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
God's work. Our hands.

JOIN US DURING HOLY WEEK  
AND THEN CELEBRATE CHRIST'S  
RESURRECTION ON EASTER.

**Address Service Requested**