

Trinity Valley Tribune

Gilman ~ St. John's ~ Spring Lake

APRIL 2021

Mission Statement

By the power of the Holy Spirit, Trinity Valley Lutheran Parish is united to increase the vitality of our individual congregations by joining our talents and resources. Together we can better serve one another, share God's goodness, Sacrament, and bring Christ to our neighbors.

Church Locations

Gilman Lutheran Church

N8107 330th St.

PO Box 386

gilslake@svtel.net

St. John's Lutheran Church

S520 Church Ave.

PO Box 336

svstjelca@svtel.net

Spring Lake Lutheran Church

N7724 County Rd B

PO Box 386

gilslake@svtel.net

Spring Valley, WI 54767

715-778-4334 or 715-778-5935

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday, 9am—noon

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

April—June:

Gilman 9:45

St. John's 11:00

Spring Lake 8:30

† Weekly online worship services can be accessed at Pastor Amelia's Facebook page or St. John's, Gilman or Spring Lake Facebook page. You can also find it on [Youtube.com@TVLPGilmanStJohnsSpringLake](https://www.youtube.com/@TVLPGilmanStJohnsSpringLake).

† Sunday Worship broadcast is on Sunday at 11:00 a.m. and Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m. on Baldwin Lightstream cable on channel 16.

EASTER

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Lenten services are posted on Wednesdays and can be viewed online.

April 1, 2021 Maunday Thursday Service
7:00 p.m. at Spring Lake

April 2, 2021 Good Friday Service
12:00 p.m. at Gilman
7:00 p.m. at St. John's

EASTER SERVICES

Gilman at 9:45 a.m.
St. John's at 11:00 a.m.
Spring Lake at 8:30 a.m.

Crosses We Don't Choose

Then Jesus told them, "... take up their cross and follow me." Matthew 16:24b

Dear Members and Friends of the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin,

My friend Julie's mom had dementia. Julie picked up that cross and carried it as her beloved mother faded away. Paul was in second grade when he was diagnosed with diabetes. It was a cross he would carry for the rest of his life. Erica's drug addiction was a cross she and her family carried for years until she found sobriety. They were all crosses they didn't choose.

Jesus carried his cross on the road to his crucifixion. Along the way he falls, and a man named Simon of Cyrene is forced to pick up Jesus' cross and carry it the rest of the way to Calvary. Simon was most likely a reluctant cross bearer. Most of us are reluctant cross bearers. We don't choose the pain or suffering we've been dealt, and yet we carry the load. We don't choose to carry another person's cross when they are too weak to carry it themselves, but we are at times compelled by love to do so.

This month marks the one year anniversary of the pandemic. It is a cross that we've all carried to one degree or another. For some it has been an inconvenience and for others a heavy burden of suffering and profound grief. Theologically there is no way to put a positive spin on the coronavirus or 2020. It has been a cross we didn't choose. The strain of carrying this cross is evident in our country and congregations. We are all weary of it.

On Palm/Passion Sunday and Good Friday we are drawn into the story of Jesus' arrest, trial, and death. We walk alongside him in the crowd as he carries his cross, our cross, compelled by love. We walk with a suffering Jesus straining under the weight of this cross, stumbling, falling, getting back up and finally letting go, letting another carry it. Jesus knew pain in his human body, and so Jesus knows our every weakness. Jesus himself was beaten, knew suffering and was unable to carry the weight this cross. He falls to the ground under the weight of his love for us.

As a church we invite others to walk in the way of Jesus knowing that they are carrying crosses they didn't choose for themselves. We invite others to walk in the way of Jesus because as a community of faith we shoulder the burden and carry it all together. We help another carry their cross out of love. We are Simon of Cyrene.

Maybe that is what this past year has taught us; that we need each other; we aren't alone. We've been isolated, quarantined, but not alone. We can't take our congregations for granted. We need our faith communities and the relationships with other believers because we can't carry our own crosses. We follow the way of Jesus together bearing our neighbor's crosses out of love.

It is in the cross that Jesus carried and on which he was crucified that we can know the love of God and salvation. This is Luther's Theology of the Cross. It is in the crosses that we as a community of faith carry together as we follow in the way of Jesus that we too see and know the love God.

Dear friends of the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin, I am grateful for you, that during the pandemic, we were able to walk in the way of Jesus together. May you each know the joy of Easter! Christ is Risen. He is risen indeed.

Bishop Laurie Skow-Anderson

Inspired by an article titled Crosses we don't choose in March 10, 2021 Christian Century by Debie Thomas
Simon of Cyrene Matthew 27:32

Notices

FOOD PANTRY HOURS

Spring Valley:

2nd & 4th Wed.
10-11:30am & 4:30-6pm



Elmwood:

1st Tues. 3-6pm
3rd Tues. 9-1pm

THANK YOU

- Special thank you to Lisa Nelson for her expertise and time creating the TVL Parish website which links to the individual church websites.
- Thank you to Chad Madson for donating masks and hand sanitizer to our churches. We appreciate you thinking of us and sharing your overstock with our congregations.
- Thank you to Pearl Ducklow and Nina Larson for sewing the stoles for our First Communion recipients at St. John's and to Jackie Prudlow for the banner packets at Gilman.

CONFIRMATION NEWS!!

April 7th—Ask the Pastor!

April 14th—Roadside pick-up

April 21st—Confirmation party: pizza, play and ice cream!

GILMAN'S MONTH FOR FOOD PANTRY

Gilman church is responsible for collecting donations for the Spring Valley Area Food Pantry for the month of April. Donations of non-perishable items can be left at the back of the church and monetary donations can be made through the offering plates. Thank you for your generosity!

GRACE PLACE

Spring Lake congregation supplied the supper to Grace Place homeless shelter on Friday, March 12th. Donna Lien, Kim Davis, MaryJane Hecker and Nancy Christianson prepared four casseroles which Orville Pierce delivered to be served to the residents. Our next delivery will be on April 9th with casseroles provided by Gilman members; Lois Verges, Kalena Beyer, Joy Holerud and Brenda Walkky.

WELCA NEWS

GILMAN-SPRING LAKE-ST. JOHN'S

No meeting or Bible study for the month of April

CHURCH ROTATION SCHEDULE

2021

FEBRUARY-MARCH

GILMAN	8:30
ST. JOHN'S	9:45
SPRING LAKE	11:00

APRIL-JUNE

GILMAN	9:45
ST. JOHN'S	11:00
SPRING LAKE	8:30

JULY-SEPTEMBER

GILMAN	11:00
ST. JOHN'S	8:30
SPRING LAKE	9:45

OCTOBER-DECEMBER

GILMAN	8:30
ST. JOHN'S	9:45
SPRING LAKE	11:00

GILMAN WORSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES

<u>Date</u>	<u>Greeters</u>	<u>Readers</u>	<u>Acolytes</u>
4/2	Larry & Diane Hurtgen	Diane Hurtgen	Jaci Mader
4/4	Jeremy & Brenda Johnson	Jeremy Johnson	Addison Neidermyer
4/11	Joel & Brenda Stark	Missy Hague	Collin Hague
4/18	Rob & Becky Timm	Delmer blegen	Chase Rud
4/25	Joy Wilson	Jon Lenarz	Taylor Traynor
Deacon: Dawn Schmitt			
Altar Care: Sonya Lenarz & Tricia Traynor			

SPRING LAKE WORSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES

<u>Date</u>	<u>Greeters</u>	<u>Readers</u>
4/1	Randy & Kathy Nyeggen	Kathy Nyeggen
4/4	Randy & Vicki Lehmann	Donna Lien
4/11	Dale & Kay Place	Kay Place
4/18	Don & Donna Blegen	Don Blegen
4/25	Ron & Marge Ginsbach	Ron Ginsbach
Deacon: Mary Jane Hecker		
Altar Care: Donna Stringer, Missy VandeVrede, Kim Woodford		

BIBLE CAMP

At Trinity Valley Parish we ask that confirmation students attend "Jr. High/ Confirmation Camp" at Luther Point Bible Camp at least once during the summer before their 7th, 8th, or 9th grade. This year we are scheduled to attend during the week of **July 18-23rd**.

This experience is designed to help campers gain independence, meet new friends and take ownership of their faith through worship, Bible studies and other fun activities. These will include an Outpost adventure, service projects, low-ropes course and more!

Gilman/Spring Lake congregations will pay the great majority of the \$405 cost for each first-time student through grants and fundraisers. But we request that \$135 deposit be paid by the student's family if at all possible.

Due to the uncertainty that goes along with COVID-19, Luther Point takes everything "one-day-at-a-time". They are planning on holding the full summer program, however are prepared to make changes as necessary to limit group sizes. They are also waiving cancellation fees up until May 1, 2021 if you need to cancel your reservation for any reason.

It is very important that you register your student online, to avoid a \$25 added fee. For the church to get the early-bird discount of \$15 per student, you will need to go online to complete the registration and pay the deposit by May 1st. Information regarding camp is available at **www.lutherpoint.org**. If you are unable to pay this deposit, please contact Pastor so that we can find some way to help. Watch for a future mailing.

FIRST COMMUNION

Several young students will receive First Communion during our Worship service on April 11th. This years recipients are:

Gilman: Will Webb, Rodney & Danica Quinn, Colton & Braxton Nelson, Bella Hague, Aubrea & Allie Timm, Hunter Leland, Jake Kotten, Brooke Verges.

Spring Lake: Gwen Yonke

St. John's: Brynn Moore, Afton Herum, Samuel Schmitt, Brennen Anderson, Grace Hennemann, Elliot Tanberg, Lucas Boyer

Part of the service will include a display of the individual banners or stoles which each student has created.

Special Congregational Meeting – April 11th – Vote on Pastoral Candidate

The Congregation Councils of Gilman, St. John's and Spring Lake Lutheran Churches have called a special meeting of each congregation for Sunday, April 11, 2021 immediately following each church's worship service, to be held in the sanctuary of the church.

The sole item on the agenda for the special meeting of the congregation is to act upon a recommendation from the Parish Council to extend a Letter of Call to Pastor Amelia Houdek to be the pastor of Trinity Valley Lutheran Parish.

All 3 congregations must vote on the same day, with a quorum in attendance, and the approval of the candidate being by a minimum of 2/3 of voting members in attendance at all 3 churches. If any one of the congregations does not approve, then the Call Committee will begin over with new candidates and interviews.

Look for letter in the mail with more information on the meeting and candidate....

If you can't be present please call the office by noon on April 8th leave your name and phone number. You will be called during the meeting on the 11th to cast your vote. (vote by phone will not be anonymous)

Joint Council Meeting – Trinity Valley Lutheran Parish

A joint meeting of the councils from Gilman, St. John's, and Spring Lake met via ZOOM on 3/9/21 at 6:01p.m. Members present were Phil Verges, Shelli Wood, Trudy Rew, Diane Hurtgen, Karen Gunderson, Dawn Schmitt, Nancy Cleveland, Barb Anderson, Lisa Nelson, Linda Anderson, Tricia Traynor, Stacy Burr, Ray Dohm, Rob Moore, and Mary Hecker.

Karen Gunderson, Parish Council president, opened the meeting with prayer. Suggestion made by Nancy Cleveland to designate a parking space for the Pastor at each church so that there is a place to park quickly when rotating between church services.

Reviewed call process. Parish elected call committee/transition team who completed a congregational profile which was submitted to the synod office. The committee received the names of interested candidates and conducted interviews, then brought the name forward to the parish council. Parish council put together a compensation package agreeable to both the pastor and the parish council. A special meeting to vote whether to call that pastor is then held. All 3 churches must meet on the same date and vote. A two-thirds majority of voting members present is required to call a pastor. If any one of the 3 churches do not meet that requirement, that candidate is not called, and the call committee will begin the interview process again.

A special meeting will be scheduled at all 3 churches on Sunday, April 11, 2021 following each of the services. A letter to that effect will be mailed to all members by mid-March. The call committee unanimously selected Pastor Amelia Houdek, who is currently serving as our interim pastor. The call committee and members of the Parish Council will be present at the meetings to answer any questions prior to the vote.

Karen thanked the call committee/transition team members for the work they have performed thus far and for the support of all the council members.

Lisa Nelson gave a brief report on the progress of a new website for Trinity Valley Lutheran Parish. The upcoming worship dates and schedule rotation were reviewed. Maundy Thursday services will be held for the parish at Spring Lake on the April 1. There will be 2 Good Friday services on April 2, one at noon at Gilman and one in the evening at St. John's. Watch the bulletin and newsletter for accurate times. Easter Sunday is April 4th and it is also **the beginning of the new time rotation**, so SL will meet at 8:30, G at 9:45, and SJ at 11:00.

Next joint council meeting will be held in person (along with possible optional ZOOM) on April 13th at 6:30 at **St. John's**. The joint council adjourned at 6:54 and the individual church councils began their meetings.

Respectfully submitted by Shelli Wood, Parish Council Secretary

April 2021

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

*Worship times rotate this month								
					1 7pm—Maundy Thursday Worship at Spring Lake	2 Good Friday: 12pm— Gilman 7pm— St. John's		3
Easter 4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
8:30-Spring Lake 9:45 -Gilman 11:00-St John's			6pm-7th-8th Grade Conf. at SJ		4pm- Supper delivered to Grace Place Shelter			
11 1st Communion Ceremonies	12	13	14	15	16	17		
8:30-Spring Lake 9:45 -Gilman 11:00-St John's Congregational Vote		8am-Crew leaves for West Cap from SJ 6:30-Joint Council Meetings 6pm-SL meets	6pm-7th-8th Grade Conf. at SJ (Roadside Pick-up)					
18	19	20	21	22	23	24		
8:30-Spring Lake 9:45 -Gilman 11:00-St John's			6pm-7th-8th Grade Conf. at SJ (Last Night-party)					
25	26	27	28	29	30			
8:30-Spring Lake 9:45 -Gilman 11:00-St John's			9-2: Red Cross Blood Drive at SJ					Early Bird Camp Registrations due May 1st