



# DOES CREATIVITY MATTER?



Lake Nokomis  
Lutheran Church  
Enough for everyone

**APRIL 28, 2024**

# PEACEMAKERS

Prophets, Painters & Poets

## SPRING SERMON SERIES

### WELCOME TO LAKE NOKOMIS LUTHERAN CHURCH

We gather in faith that there is Enough for Everyone. In worship and community, we seek to grow in love for God and for our neighbor. We trust that we are called and transformed to create a world of abundance. This faith community is committed to genuine, inclusive welcome. Our siblings of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions are welcomed and embraced here. And we continue our commitment to work for racial equity, firmly grounded in the belief that everyone is a beloved child of God. Visit [lakenokomischurch.org](http://lakenokomischurch.org) to learn more.

### LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We acknowledge that Lake Nokomis Lutheran Church is located on the ancestral land of the Dakota people. You can read the full Land Acknowledgment statement: [www.lakenokomischurch.org/land](http://www.lakenokomischurch.org/land)

### BE OUR GUEST

Are you visiting today? We look forward to meeting you. Feel free to introduce yourself to those around you, and fill out the **Welcome slip** towards the last page of the bulletin, and drop it in the offering basket.

### LET THE CHILDREN COME

We love the joyful noises that little ones make! Kids of all ages are invited to come up front for storytime. If your child needs a break or a creative outlet, check out the carpeted space in the rear of the Sanctuary, or visit the Kids' Corner playroom near the Small Sanctuary.



**Lake Nokomis  
Lutheran Church**  
Enough for everyone



### DOES CREATIVITY MATTER?

*We can say it doesn't matter until we've experienced the lowest grief or the highest high and then wonder if anyone has ever felt that way too. It connects us to a human experience, it helps us know that we are not alone, it gives us an outlet for pain and praise.*

### PREACHING TODAY



### PASTOR SARA SPOHR

Senior Pastor

Lake Nokomis Lutheran Church

#### READER

Bonnie Lindstrom

#### USHERS

Kat Vann

#### COMMUNION

Kathy & Steve Schou, Kathryn Selin, Jenny Dowzak

#### ALTAR GUILD

Jane Wheeler

#### LEADING MUSIC

Becky Sun, Dennis Wallisch, Community Choir Sopranos and Altos

# GATHER

## PRELUDE

## Pure Imagination

by Leslie Bricusse and Anthony Newley

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## GATHERING SONG

## How Can I Keep from Singing



1 My life flows on in end-less song; a-bove earth's lam-en-ta-tion,  
2 Through all the tu-mult and the strife, I hear that mu-sic ring-ing.  
3 What though my joys and com-forts die? The Lord my Sav-ior liv-eth.  
4 The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a foun-tain ev-er spring-ing!



I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn that hails a new cre-a-tion.  
It finds an ech-o in my soul. How can I keep from sing-ing?  
What though the dark-ness gath-er round? Songs in the night he giv-eth.  
All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from sing-ing?

*Refrain*



No storm can shake my in-most calm while to that Rock I'm cling-ing.



Since Christ is Lord of heav-en and earth, how can I keep from sing-ing?

## CALL TO WORSHIP

A word of encouragement came from prophet to people;

**Live a life that is full – build, plant, eat, love, multiply –**

Pray for your communities

**Keep God in the center of all that is.**

We enter into worship today with hope in our hearts

**For something happens here**

**that reminds us that we can live as God desires**

God has made a promise of faithfulness to us

**and we can trust the promise.**

## GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Gracious God, across the ages you have guided your people through the wilderness, assuring us of a home in your eternal city. Strengthen us along the way, that we might not neglect our call to serve the cities and towns where we live. Help us to trust in your unfailing presence amid all of our fears. Grant us wisdom to discern your way in this world and give us hope for all that is to come. Amen.

## SONG OF PRAISE

### Spirit of the Living God

*You are invited to be seated, sing through this song once, enjoy the mural presentation, and sing the song once more.*

Musical score for the song "Spirit of the Living God". The score is written in 4/4 time and consists of three staves of music with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: "Spi - rit of the liv - ing God, fall fresh on me. Spi - rit of the liv - ing God, fall fresh on me. Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me. \_\_\_ Spi - rit of the liv - ing God, fall fresh on me." The score includes a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a common time signature (C). The lyrics are written in a simple, sans-serif font.



## STORYTIME

*Children pre-K through grade 5 leave the sanctuary for Sunday School, music, art, and a story, and go to the Education Center. Children will return before Holy Communion.*

## READING

### Jeremiah 29:1-7, 10-11, CEB

The prophet Jeremiah sent a letter from Jerusalem to the few surviving elders among the exiles, to the priests and the prophets, and to all the people Nebuchadnezzar had taken to Babylon from Jerusalem. The letter was sent after King Jeconiah, the queen mother, the court officials, the government leaders of Judah and Jerusalem, and the craftsmen and smiths had left Jerusalem. It was delivered to Babylon by Elasah, Shaphan's son, and Gemariah, Hilkiyah's son—two men dispatched to Babylon's King Nebuchadnezzar by King Zedekiah.

The Lord of heavenly forces, the God of Israel, proclaims to all the exiles I have carried off from Jerusalem to Babylon: Build houses and settle down; cultivate gardens and eat what they produce. Get married and have children; then help your sons find wives and your daughters find husbands in order that they too may have children. Increase in number there so that you don't dwindle away. Promote the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because your future depends on its welfare.

The Lord proclaims: When Babylon's seventy years are up, I will come and fulfill my gracious promise to bring you back to this place. I know the plans I have in mind for you, declares the Lord; they are plans for peace, not disaster, to give you a future filled with hope.

The Word of God, for the people of God.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## SERMON

Pastor Sara Spohr

## SONG OF THE DAY

Hear the Spirit of Creation



- 1 Hear the Spir - it of cre - a - tion surg - ing through each root and vein,
- 2 With the Spir - it of cre - a - tion, we may fash - ion all things new,
- 3 Then with joy and ad - o - ra - tion gath - er chis - el, brush, and pen,



Source of soul-sprung in - spi - ra - tion, Word a - wak - ing heart and brain,  
nour - ish hope and con - so - la - tion, look be - yond each nar - row view,  
tools from ev - 'ry life's vo - ca - tion made to build, de - light, and mend.



rous - ing us to bold in - ven - tion, acts of beau - ty, love, and praise:  
claim a clear, trans - form - ing vi - sion, tempered by hu - mil - i - ty,  
Praise the Spir - it of cre - a - tion who sus - tains the work we tend;



faith re - vealed with - out pre - ten - sion, found in ges - ture, line, and phrase.  
while we craft with love's pre - ci - sion all that grace has let us see.  
join the soar - ing, glad o - va - tion; sound the hope - ful, loud A - men.

Text: Jeannette M. Lindholm  
Music: BEACH SPRING, *The Sacred Harp*, Philadelphia, 1844  
Text © 2001 Jeannette M. Lindholm, admin. Augsburg Fortress



## OFFERING

*Your gifts make a difference. Thank you for supporting our shared ministry and outreach. Scan the QR code to take advantage of our Simply Giving mobile option. You'll also find baskets in the rear of the Sanctuary for offerings and prayer cards.*

## SPECIAL MUSIC

### **I'll Paint You a Rainbow**

by Greg Gilpin

Author Unknown

Community Choir Sopranos and Altos

*I'll paint you a rainbow to hang on the wall  
To brighten your heart when the gray shadows fall  
On a canvas of joy outlasting the years  
With a soft brush of sweetness to dry all your tears  
I'll paint you a rainbow with colors of smiles  
That glow with sincerity over the miles  
On a palette of words I will tenderly blend  
Tones into treasures of sunlight and wind*

*I'll paint you a rainbow that reaches so wide  
Your sights and your sorrows will vanish inside  
And deep in the center of each different hue  
A memory fashioned especially for you  
So lift up your eyes, for suspended above  
A rainbow designed with love...*

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

*You are invited to pray the Lord's Prayer using these printed words, or the words of your heart's choosing.*

**Our Father/Mother/Parent in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

# COMMUNION SONGS

## The Open Table

by Mark A. Miller



1. Come, oh come, come to the ta - ble.  
 2. Cir - cle round, let's join to - geth - er.  
 3. God is love; love is cre - at - ing.



Gath - er 'round, come with - out fear.  
 Share your joys and bring your tears.  
 some - thing new, right here, right now. We're



Known by name, here at the  
 Strength and hope found at the ta - ble, this ta - ble.  
 chil - dren of God, here at the



Wel - come here to the ta - ble of love. love.

## In the Singing



1 In the sing - ing, in the si - lence, in the hands ex - pect - ant,  
 2 In the ques - tion, in the an - swer, in the mo - ment of ac -



o - pen, in the bless - ing, in the break - ing,  
 cent - ance. in the heart's crv. in the heal - ing.



in your pres - ence at this ta - ble,  
 in the cir - cle of your peo - ple,



Je - sus Christ, Je - sus Christ, be the wine of grace;



Je - sus Christ, Je - sus Christ, be the bread of peace.

## BLESSING

The peace of God which is beyond all our human understanding, be upon you,  
The peace of Christ which breaks down barriers, be within you, and  
The peace of the Holy Spirit which creates true belonging, be among you.

**We go in peace to love and serve God,  
In the way of Christ. Amen.**

## SENDING SONG

### Creator God, Who Gave Us Life



1 Cre - a - tor God, who gave us life, who  
2 In - fuse us with your fer - tile grace and  
3 That through your art - ists, thus in - spired, all



breathed us in - to song, who set in us cre -  
con - se - crate our art; bring spring - time to our  
bar - ren - ness may flee; all hearts and minds be



a - tive drive, from whom our ut - most dreams de - rive, to  
wil - der - ness where void and tal - ent in - ter - face and  
o - pened wide and minds thus o - pened glimpse in - side your



whom all arts be - long, to whom all arts be - long:  
pow'r to us im - part, and pow'r to us im - part;  
love and maj - es - ty, your love and maj - es - ty.

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Lead with love.

**Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

**Joy to the World**  
by Hoyt Axton



## LAKE NOKOMIS LUTHERAN FOUNDATION

The Foundation provides educational grants to Lake Nokomis Lutheran members as well as funding for staff development, equipment purchases, and other one-time funding needs.

Educational grants are available to post-secondary college/university students who are actively involved, confirmed members of Lake Nokomis Lutheran. Educational awards are capped at \$1,000 per applicant per year. An educational grant applicant can apply for a maximum of four grants. Grants for staff development and other needs are awarded based on funds availability.

To apply by **June 15** for an educational grant, please complete the *Lake Nokomis Lutheran Foundation Educational Grant Application* on our website:  
[lakenokomischurch.org/foundation](http://lakenokomischurch.org/foundation).



## JOE DAVIS IS COMING TO LAKE NOKOMIS MAY 5!

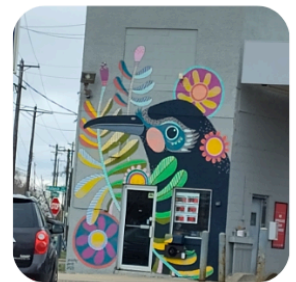
Joe Davis is an award-winning spoken word artist and bestselling author who uses poetry to power possibility. Joe is a student and practitioner of Radical Joy, a deep-rooted wellspring of well-being that he cultivates in community through writing, music, theater, and dance. Based in Minneapolis, he tours internationally to join schools, faith spaces, and nonprofits to practice visioning and embodying a world of collective liberation and human flourishing. To learn more, visit [JoeDavisPoetry.com](http://JoeDavisPoetry.com).

Be with us for an intergenerational **Faith and Life Conversation** at 9:30 and will be leading worship at 10:45.

# PEACEMAKERS

## Prophets, Painters & Poets

We have received a few pictures from folx who have gone out and looked at the murals listed in week one of our sermon series. You can find these destinations by going to [lakenokomischurch.org/murals](http://lakenokomischurch.org/murals). More maps to come.



## MURAL MEET UP

**Saturday May 11 at noon**, meet at **Longfellow Park**. Bring your own lunch, we'll look at a few murals and walk to Minnehaha Scoop for ice cream. There are a number of great murals nearby, let's explore together!

# JUSTICE & MERCY



*Fighting food insecurity in our Minneapolis neighborhood!*

Throughout the month of **April**, the **Minnehaha Food Shelf** is requesting Shampoo & Conditioner. You can place these items at the foot of the tree. All donations will be greatly appreciated. Thank you!

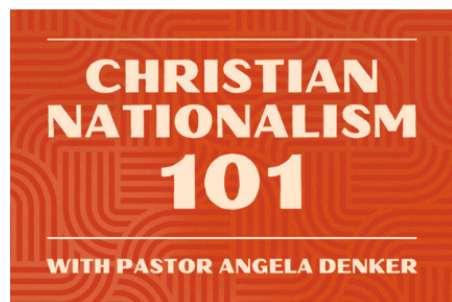


Local musical artist supports **MNIPL** through song  
Twin Cities folk singer and multi-genre musician, **Mark Schirmacher**, has released a new song, "Cheap Oil", which is an amazing anthem about the realities of our dependence on fossil fuels. Mark is passionate about the earth and would like it to be "healthy and available to all future generations", and wants connect to people's hearts and minds through his song. You can stream this song on Spotify, Apple Music and Bandcamp.

## SACRED RECKONINGS FILM PREMIERE

**Thursday, May 2 | 6 - 8 pm | SpringHouse Ministry Center, Minneapolis**

Join Rev. Dr. Rebecca Voelkel for the premier of Sacred Reckonings, a film about the work of reparations in white churches. This short 26-minute documentary features interviews with Black, Indigenous, and white leaders in the reparations movement sharing stories and reflecting on the work needed within white churches to engage the reparatory process. There is no cost to attend.



Join **Pastor Angela Denker** for a 2-part series on Christian Nationalism - defining what that means and how we can all work together to combat it. These discussions are designed to include students and adults of all ages for the sake of fostering intergenerational conversations about an important topic. **May 1 & 8 - Come early for dinner from 5:30-6:30 pm. These sessions begin at 6:30 pm in the Langemo Room** (Bethlehem Lutheran Church - Minneapolis campus). Invite your family and neighbors. **Please register in advance.**

**Session 1** (May 1): Defining Christian Nationalism and its theological roots

**Session 2** (May 8): How can you, your family and faith communities work together to combat Christian Nationalism? How do you take good care of yourself and your neighbors when authoritarian government and religious violence are on the rise?



# CHILDREN, YOUTH, FAMILY

## COMING UP!

**Sunday, May 5**

Spoken Word Artist, Joe Davis, leads us in worship

**Sunday, May 12**

Fundraiser for Summer Camp following worship

**Wednesday, May 15**

Final night of Confirmation/Party!

**May 19 - Blessing and Celebration of**

**Graduates** - come and bless our high school seniors. Cake reception to follow. Wear red for Pentecost!

**Questions? Please contact Pastor Arthur**

**Murray: [amurray@lakenokomis.org](mailto:amurray@lakenokomis.org)**

**MORE AT**

**[lakenokomischurch.org/cyf](http://lakenokomischurch.org/cyf)**

## SOUTH MINNEAPOLIS DAY CAMP

**Aug 19-23**

**Diamond Lake Lutheran Church**

Please go to: [smplsdaycamp.org/home](http://smplsdaycamp.org/home)

Registration to register and for more information.

**For all ages!** High Schoolers are encouraged to sign up to be leaders (there is a stipend, training provided on the Sunday night before camp, and it looks great on a resume.) This is a great thing to invite friends to as well.

Hope to see you there!

Pastor Arthur

## PASTOR ARTHUR IS IN LIBERIA!

Pastor Arthur is doing some much needed work and ministry in Liberia. He will be heading back home soon, and will have many stories to share. You can follow a bit of his journey on his our Facebook page: [facebook.com/LNLMPLS](https://facebook.com/LNLMPLS)



### We are glad you're here!

We want to get a chance to know you. Please fill this sheet out and place it in the offering basket. Introduce yourself to those around you. Stay for fellowship afterwards!

Date: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Best Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Best Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

How did you hear about Lake Nokomis Lutheran Church?  
\_\_\_\_\_

(please check all that apply)

- I am:
- new here
  - visiting again
  - here with friends and family
  - active in another church
  - looking for a church home

- I would:
- like to receive the weekly newsletter
  - like to connect by phone
  - like to connect by email

**Find out more about Lake Nokomis Lutheran Church by going to [www.lakenokomischurch.org](http://www.lakenokomischurch.org)**

# PRAYER & CARE



April is **Autism Awareness Month**, **Alcohol Awareness Month**, and **Sexual Assault Awareness Month**. We pray for all people who are affected by each of these areas in our community, in our city, and in our world.

- Prayers for Pastor Arthur as he returns from Liberia this next week.
- For justice and peace among nations where war and violence rage, especially Palestine and Israel, Iran, Myanmar, Iraq, Haiti, Russia and Ukraine, and South Sudan...
- For people in Central and South America affected by the dengue fever outbreak...
- For farmers and farm laborers as spring arrives...
- For peaceful and fair elections in India beginning this week...
- For corals that will die and ecosystems that will suffer as ocean temperatures rise...
- For communities grieving gun violence, especially New Orleans, Louisiana; Salisbury, North Carolina; and Chicago, Illinois...
- For areas of the nation experiencing storms and severe weather...
- For safety, understanding, and earnest dialogue amidst protests in Illinois, California, New York, and Oregon...



**SAIL stands for Stay Active and Independent for Life.** It is a national exercise program for seniors, and open to all. All New Branches seniors are welcome to join. There is no cost, and equipment is furnished. Contact Bunny Anderson for more information at 612-889-4322 or [erbuneaol.com](http://erbuneaol.com).

**What do you need prayers for?** Reach out to the prayer team with your requests, or to join your prayers with others on the team, please email [prayer@lakenokomis.org](mailto:prayer@lakenokomis.org)



## Prayer for the People



If you have a prayer request, write it below and place it in the offering basket. Please let us know how you would like to share it.

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- Read aloud today in worship
- Share with pastor only
- Share with prayer chain

Name & Contact Info: \_\_\_\_\_