

Our Saviour Lutheran Church



Pentecost Sunday *Confirmation of Hanna Simojoki* 19 May 2013

The Parsonage, 65 Furzehall Avenue, Fareham, PO16 8UD
www.oslc.org.uk

Pastor Tapani Simojoki
Tel: 01329 822832
Mobile: 07825 447475
E-mail: pastor@oslc.org.uk

A note to visitors

We are delighted to have you with us this morning to receive the Lord's gifts of forgiveness, life and salvation. Please stay for a cup of tea or coffee after the service.

Please also record your visit in the visitors' book at the back. If you would like a phone call or a pastoral visit, speak to the pastor or leave a note in the visitors' book.

The Offering

At this time, members of this church are privileged to give to the Lord for the work of His church in this community and throughout the world. For God loves a cheerful giver. Visitors should not feel obliged in any way to contribute to the offering plate.

Children in the Service

It is a delight and a privilege to have children in the service. Children as much as adults are members of God's family and Jesus welcomes little children to Him.

Please do not worry if your child will not sit still or quietly throughout the service. Most young children won't manage that! There is plenty of space at the back of the room, and the table at the back has quiet activities for children to do. If you do need to take a child outside, the smaller room is available for that purpose.

Holy Communion

We believe that in the Lord's Supper, we eat and drink the true body and blood of Jesus in and with the bread and the wine, according to Jesus' own words. We also believe that those who participate in Holy Communion in a particular congregation should be in agreement in the confession of the faith.

Therefore, we ask that only those who are instructed in the Lutheran Confessions and are under our pastor's spiritual care come forward to receive the Lord's Supper.

If you are visiting us and wish to receive the Lord's Supper, please speak to the pastor *before the service*. **Everyone is welcome to come forward to receive a blessing.**

Our teaching on this matter is explained in more detail in the little leaflet, 'Why Closed Communion?', which is available at the back of the church.

Thank you for honouring our beliefs.

IN OUR PRAYERS

Members

Ron, Forbes, Frank

Family of members

Lucy, Diana (old age); Alex, Sarah & family; Jerry Harbin (recovering from operation)

Friends of members

Ilse Kelly (old age); Paul (homeless); Mike (health); Claire and Phil (health); Helen Kriewaldt (stroke, breast cancer); Johann Wiebusch (CP); Margaret & Patrick Tustin (Alzheimer's); Rob (depression); Debra (depression); Dave (mental illness); Claire (leukaemia); Don & Julie Gardner (cancer); Lisa & family (cancer); Baby Thomas (health); Sally (health); Julia (distress); Bonnie & unborn child

ELCE

Cheltenham Lutheran Mission; Pr. Flor; installation of Rev. Sean Ballard (Ascension Lutheran Church); Norma Rakow (illness & old age)

The Church of God

Lutherans in Africa, Pr. James May; Japan Lutheran Church; Living Word Church

Voters' Assembly Update: Change to Bylaws

The following change to the bylaws of our constitution was agreed at the Voters' Assembly on 15 May:

1. MEETINGS of the VOTERS' ASSEMBLY.

Old text:

- 1.4 At any duly called meeting one third + 1 of the voting membership shall constitute a quorum.

New text:

- 1.4 At any duly called meeting one third + 1 of the *active* voting membership shall constitute a quorum. ***Any voting member shall be considered inactive once they have missed three consecutive ordinary meetings of the Voters' Assembly, until they attend such a meeting. This does not affect their rights or duties as voting members.***

Consultation: The best time for Bible Study?

Since the autumn, Bible study has been held on Wednesday mornings. Before that, it used to be on Thursday nights.

I would like to review the timing of the Bible study from time to time, to make sure that as many people as possible are able to attend.

The options are:

1. Tuesday morning
2. Wednesday morning
3. Wednesday evening
4. Thursday morning
5. Thursday afternoon
6. Thursday evening
7. All of the above
8. None of the above

Please let me know your preference by **Sunday 2 June**. *If there is a change, it will come into effect at the start of September.*

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Liturgical Titbit: What is Confirmation?

Confirmation is not a sacrament. It is not established in the Bible, and so it has no promises of God attached to it. Rather, it is a rite or ceremony instituted by the church for the good of the church.

In the rite of confirmation, the catechumens confirm the baptismal vows made on their behalf by parents and sponsors (godparents). Thus, confirmation is a *public profession of faith*. This is one reason why confirmation follows thorough catechesis (instruction in the faith).

In the Lutheran church, confirmation is normally associated with *admission to the Lord's Supper* (First Communion). Having been instructed sufficiently to understand the key teachings of the Christian faith and the meaning and significance of the Sacrament of the Altar, the catechumens are considered to be able to 'discern the Lord's body' (1 Corinthians 11:27-28) and to receive the Sacrament for their benefit.

What Confirmation does not do is convey any spiritual benefits that are not available by the means instituted in Scripture. The gift of the Holy Spirit is given in Baptism (Acts 2:38, Titus 3:5), and through hearing God's Word (John 14:23). Forgiveness of sins is received through Baptism (Acts 2:38), the Absolution (John 20:23), and the Lord's Supper (Matthew 26:26-28). Therefore, it is by no means a necessity.

However, as a ceremony where the faith is professed publicly, and catechumens are prayed for and admitted into the full fellowship of the church, it is of great benefit.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

The Week Ahead

Wed	10.30am	Bible Study (Parsonage)
	12.30pm	Pastor's Surgery (The Hub)
	3pm	Devotion at Merry Hall)
Fri	3pm	Bible Study at Brighton Mission
Sun	10.30am	Divine Service (Scout Hall)
	5pm	Pastor at Oxford Mission

Further ahead

29 May	10.30am	Bible Study (Parsonage)
	12.30pm	Pastor's Surgery (The Hub)
1 June	4.30pm	Evening Prayer (S.S. Peter & Paul)
2 June	10.30am	Divine Service (Scout Hall)
8 June	5.30pm	Saturday Supper: 'Coronation'

Next Sunday's Readings:

Isaiah 6:1-7; Romans 11:33-36; John 3:1-15

Daily Readings:

Sun: Numbers 21:10-35 Luke 21:20-38 *Formula of Concord Solid Declaration XI: 65-75*

Mon: Num 22:1-20 Luke 22:1-23 *FC SD XI: 76-86*

Tue: Num 22:21-23:3 Luke 22:24-46 *FC SD XI: 87-93*

Wed: Num 23:4-28 Luke 22:47-71 *FC SD XI: 94-96*

Thu: Num 24:1-25 Luke 23:1-25 *FC SD XII: 1-27*

Fri: Num 27:12-23 Luke 23:26-56 *FC SD XII: 28-38*

Sat: Num 32:1-6, 16-27 Luke 24:1-27 *FC SD XII: 39-40*