

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

1400 South State Street

New Ulm, MN 56073

Phone: 507-233-4430

Email: office@oursaviorsnewulm.org

Website: www.oursaviorsnewulm.org

NON PROFIT ORGANIZATION US POSTAGE PAID New Ulm, MN Permit #6

Address Service Requested

Worship Services

Saturday worship – 5:30 PM

Sunday worship – 8:30 & 11:00 AM

Regular Broadcasts

(Comcast Channel 14; NU Telecom Channel 3)

Mon.–7 PM; Thurs.–11:00 AM & 5 PM

Day 1: Sun. – 9:30 a.m. (KNUJ)

SIDELITES

Our Savior's Mission Statement –

Our Savior's Lutheran Church:

- *A Welcoming Community, Experiencing God, Reaching Out and Raising Up Followers of Jesus Christ.*

SIDELITES

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

January 22, 2012

Congregational Annual Meeting Scheduled for Sunday, February 5 12:30 PM in the Social Hall

All members of the congregation are encouraged to attend the Congregational Annual Meeting Sunday, February 5 following the 11:00 worship service.

Your participation helps our congregation set its vision for ministry and mission in the year ahead.

This is a crucial time for the ministry of our congregation. The church is YOU and the Church Council calls you, challenges you, and encourages you to become involved and aware of the mission and the needs of Our Savior's.

Come, see, shape, and share the priorities you think are important for our life together as a congregation.

A lunch will be served at noon by the youth of Our Savior's, with a freewill donation accepted.



Prior to the February 5th Annual Meeting, you are invited to a **Preliminary Budget Review Meeting on January 29 at 9:45 in The Upper Room**. This is your chance to receive a clear look at the financial climate of our congregation and provide your input on how our budget is spent.

Notice to Congregation: It has come to the attention of the Board of Trustees that there were certain irregularities in approving the sale of the woodlot property owned by the church at the 2011 Annual Meeting. In order to comply with Minnesota Law regarding the disposition of real estate by a religious society, the Board of Trustees deemed it prudent to re-notice the congregation and seek a corrective resolution at the 2012 Annual Meeting. A copy of the resolution is posted on the bulletin board in the social hall and is available in the church office.

The OSLC Council has approved several proposed changes to our Constitution with regards to the positions of Treasurer and Financial Secretary. With the pending retirements of both Jim Schmidt and Elaine Schmoll, Council feels that it is necessary to combine these positions into one. The proposed changes would allow that and will be explained completely at the annual meeting and require a congregational vote to approve. Please attend our Annual Meeting on February 5th to hear more about these changes and have your voice heard.

Ministry Focus

Noisy Offering

We receive a “noisy offering” the fifth Sunday of a given month. We call these “noisy offerings” because we encourage people to bring in loose change and drop it in galvanized pails. This offering then goes to support local organizations and/or mission projects.

The weekend of **January 28th-29th** is coming soon and we will be receiving a noisy offering to support the New Ulm Area Food Shelf. This ministry, as well as the needs of the food shelf, continues to grow. New Ulm Area Food Shelf is working hard to offer more nutritious food to struggling local families.

Supporting the food shelf with a cash donation means they can purchase fresh fruits, vegetables, meats, and dairy products. The food shelf can purchase four or even five times more food with these donations than we can at the grocery store. They can feed a family for one week for as little as \$25. There is still a need for food and food is appreciated. You can bring food and place in the food barrel located outside of the church office.

Start cleaning out drawers, seat cushions, under couches and other place to find coins to support this vital local ministry.

“In a country with an overabundance of food, no one should go hungry because of a lack of funds or technical and professional knowledge. We have the food, and we have the networks; we now need to support the providers.”

- Jose Serrano, congressman from New York



Sunday School teachers are needed for spring rotations!

Contact the church office to volunteer or for more information.



Tackle Hunger
With Souper
Bowl of Caring!

When? February 5, 2012

More than 20 years ago, the Souper Bowl of Caring began with a simple prayer from a single youth group: “Lord, as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us to be mindful of those without even a bowl of soup to eat.” Since that day, more than \$81 million has been raised for local charities across the country through Souper Bowl of Caring. It has become a powerful movement that is transforming the time around Super Bowl weekend into the nation’s largest celebration of giving and serving.

Our Savior’s youth will be doing two things: First, they ask you to bring items for the New Ulm Food Shelf. Second, they ask you drop a donation in the soup pot as you leave worship that day.

Our Savior’s youth have chosen monetary donations to go toward Operation Concern at OSLC and also the Lutheran Malaria Net Campaign.

- **Reminder: Those attending the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans - Your second payment of \$250.00 is due in February. Please drop your payment off in the church office.**

Soul Support will meet **February 9 at 10:30** in the lower level multi-purpose room at Our Savior’s. Soul Support is for persons with chronic conditions: such as fibromyalgia, arthritis, heart issues, multiple sclerosis, depression, or chronic back pain. Are you in need of support and encouragement? Come and join us for this time of fellowship and support.

Thoughts about Stephen Ministry

In Job 23: verses 8 and 9 we hear:

“If I go forward, he is not there; or backward, I cannot perceive him; on the left he hides, and I cannot behold him; I turn to the right, but I cannot see him”.



In our present environment, with all of the downward spirals, these verses may echo our feelings toward God concerning economics, post holiday letdowns, and personal problems. The Stephen Ministry at Our Savior’s may think about Alzheimer’s disease. The ministry has been looking at the many aspects of the disease. There have been discussions about how this disease relates to needs in our congregation.

According to the John Hopkins School of Medicine, Alzheimer’s affects one in ten Americans over age sixty five. That is about five million people. Only half of these individuals have actually been diagnosed. It is estimated that by the year 2050 about sixteen million Americans will be dealing with the disease.

If you are someone who is experiencing the early signs of Alzheimer’s, and need a listening ear, call us. If you are a caregiver experiencing frustration and exhaustion, call us. We are here to listen, facilitate support options, and provide spiritual comfort. Contact one of our pastors to set the process in motion. Stephen Ministry is personal and always confidential.

Pastor’s Pondering:

Lent

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 22nd. I was reading the Ash Wednesday liturgy and a couple of words stood out to me. “I **invite** you to the **disciplines** of Lent-self-examination and repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love.” I was pondering or chewing on the words “invite” and “disciplines.” Invite implies “a request to be present for or in attendance.” Discipline means “training expected to produce a specific character or pattern of behavior.” So based on those definitions Lent is a time YOU are asked to be present here at Our Savior’s to receive training and be changed to be more like Christ. What are we invited to that will lead to that change: We are

invited to self-examination and repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love.

Self-examination and repentance. The request is to look at who we are and why we need a Savior. Self-examination is perhaps looking at your life in light of the Ten Commandments and asking God to forgive you and to lead you into ways of loving him and your neighbor more deeply. Self-examination is looking in a mirror and asking “Who am I? Where do I need to change?” Repentance is making a change to lead us closer to Christ and confessing our sin.

Prayer and fasting. Fasting is more than a practice of rearranging our eating habits either by cutting down on consumption or by abstaining all together. Fasting may also include from anger, gossip, judging others, complaining or other thoughts and actions that lead you away from God. Fasting helps us to be reminded of our need for God to fill us. Fasting allows us to feel physically the needs of the soul that only God can satisfy. Prayer slows us down and allows us to be focused, and enables us to listen to God. Prayer allows us to see God in the midst of our lives.

Sacrificial giving and works of love. This is more than just giving away money but also giving of our time through serving the needs of those around us. This is a practice which encourages us to let go of things (money, possessions, our valuable time) which may have taken n too high a priority in our lives. Sacrificial giving encourages us to strip away those “things” which can cause us to be separated from one another. It also challenges us to take a serious look at distinguishing between what we need and what we want.

Questions for Lent: *What do I need to say no to in order to say yes to God? Who do I need to forgive and from whom do I need to seek forgiveness? How will I pray? How will I give? How will I fast? What earthly treasures am I attached to and how can I let go?*

Pastor Joyce



From the Board of Missions:

We would like to introduce Karen Anderson to you. **Karen Anderson** is a missionary serving in Chile that we support through Missionary Sponsorship.

Karen served as a missionary with the ELCA in Chile from 1982-2000. Karen works with The Popular Education in Health Foundation (**Educaion Popular en Salud – EPES**). EPES was founded in 1982 during the military dictatorship of General Augusto Pinochet as a health training project of the Lutheran Church in Chile. Karen has returned to help the EPES staff design, launch and direct EPES' tasks, and as it explores the role of the church in the struggle for health and human rights. EPES works to build a sustainable health care organization dedicated to promoting the health, dignity and rights of the poor in Chile.

Karen received her B.S. in nursing from St. Olaf College, Northfield and her Master in International Education at the University of Massachusetts, and Masters Public Health Administration, International Health from Harvard.

Quote from Karen: "We know now that the intolerable hunger in the world is not due to scarcity – it is a question of justice and sharing. For the first time in history, our generation has the tools, technology, and resources to end hunger and extreme poverty – yet we lack the political will. If people would share there would be enough to go around for the more than 1.4 billion people living on less than US \$1.25 a day – the majority of whom are women."

The ELCA in Chile: The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Chile (Iglesia Evangelica Luterana en Chile – IELCH), a member of the Lutheran World Federation, is a church that carries out its mission in the context of people living in situations of poverty and marginalization. The IELCH has approximately 3,000 members served by 9 pastors (three women) distributed through 10 congregations and 5 points of mission (two in Santiago, two in Concepción, and 1 in Coquimbo). The IELCH has several diaconal projects and schools. The IELCH is led by Pastor President Gloria Rojas.

Pray: Pray for the Chilean pastors and lay leaders of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Chile as they seek to build a sustainable future for their church – a church that is rooted primarily in poor communities. Give thanks for their tireless work to provide daycare to children of families living in

poverty and their growing work to provide shelter for women victims of violence. Pray for the EPES health ministry, the EPES staff and the community health promoters they have trained over the past 28 years as they work to promote health and healing in their communities. Pray that women, men and children living with HIV/AIDS may receive the care and support they need.

Here are a few facts about missions in the ELCA:

The ELCA has 233 missionaries in 48 countries. Missionaries serve at the invitation of our companion churches.

70% of ELCA missionaries are lay people. Evangelism and education remain the two biggest roles that missionaries are called to fill today.

2012 Offering Envelopes Have Arrived!

- **All 2012 envelopes have been shipped to the church and are available for you to pick up at Our Savior's.**
- **You will find your offering envelopes in your church mailbox.** Offering envelopes will **no longer be mailed directly to your home.**
- If you would like offering envelopes and none have been made available to you, please contact the church office.



WEATHER RELATED ANNOUNCEMENT

When we are faced with inclement weather we will make every effort to keep you informed about worship schedule and other church activities.

Here are a few places that we will have information:

1. Call the church (233-4430) and we will have an announcement on our answering machine regarding worship and cancellations.
2. Check our web-page (www.oursaviorsnewulm.org)
3. KNUJ Radio
4. KEYC television.

If you are interested in helping with the Our Savior's booth at the New Ulm Home Show March 23-25, 2012 please contact the church office.

Ladies of Our Savior's,

First of all, I want to thank Linda Postel for her two years of being our WELCA President. It gave me a chance to get familiar with my new position. Now I still need someone for WELCA Vice-President. WELCA is a very supportive board of women. We help each other.

Thank you,
Sharmen Christopherson, WELCA President

Thank You Notes.....

To Our Savior's Lutheran Church,

Thank you so much for the lovely pot of Christmas greetings I received.
Ruth Wold

On behalf of the Gideons, David Milbrath would like to thank the congregation of Our Savior's for their donation of \$490.00 toward the purchase of Bibles to be placed throughout the world.

Dear Our Savior's Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your recent gift of \$2,000.00 to ELCA Missionary Sponsorship. Your generosity is appreciated now more than ever. Your gift, combined with the gifts of others, helps nearly 250 missionaries in 48 countries preach, teach, heal, build and seek peace alongside our global neighbors. Because of gifts like yours, villages in the Central African Republic are able to have safe drinking water for the very first time. Community health development training is made available to women in Chile. Congregations in Suriname, Jerusalem, Japan and Kenya have pastors to proclaim the gospel and develop local leadership.

Your ongoing prayers and financial gifts – together with the hard work of Evangelical Lutheran Church in America missionaries and our global companions – make a world of difference! As the ELCA, we do more together than we ever could do alone. We are a church that rolls up its sleeves and solves problems – doing God's work in the world. Thank you for your support.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Twila Schock
Director, Missionary Sponsorship and Global Appeals

Dear Our Savior's Lutheran,

Thank you for your generous gift to Luther Memorial Home. The holidays are a time for celebrating with loved ones while looking forward to Christ's return.

Merry Christmas,
Dawn Campbell, LMH – Madelia

Thank you, Pastor Joyce and members of Our Savior's, for your concern and prayers during Rod's recent surgery. Thank you also for the lovely prayer shawl. Knowing the many kind thoughts the shawl represents warms not only the body, but the heart and soul as well. Rod is now recuperating at home and doing well.

Sincerely,
Rod & Doreen Dietrich

In and Beyond Our Community...

College age members interested in outdoor ministry....Staff from Green Lake Lutheran Ministries will be recruiting at the following locations:

- Feb. 1 Concordia College, Moorhead
- Feb. 2 MSU-Moorhead
- Feb. 6 Augsburg College
- Feb. 7 Luther Seminary
- Feb. 16 Luther College
- Feb. 20 Augustana College
- Feb. 22 Gustavus Adolphus College
- Feb. 23 St. Olaf College

You can find more information and an application on the web at www.gllm.org, "About Us," "Employment."

Sonya Erickson
Administrative Coordinator
Green Lake Lutheran Ministries

MN VLY Habitat for Humanity is planning to construct its ninth home in New Ulm in 2012. Applications for potential Homeowners/Partner Families are available beginning January 1 and must be submitted by February 15, 2012. (Please see flyer posted on the bulletin board in the social hall.) For more information please call 354-4287 or email newulmhabitat@gmail.com.

Luther Memorial Home

2012 Health Care Career Scholarships

Applications for the 2012 scholarships are due to Luther Memorial Home by Monday April 9, 2012 at 5:00pm.

Scholarship Goals:

- Encourage health related careers among southern Minnesota Lutheran youth
- Number of Scholarships: 7 - \$500 scholarships for students in the Luther Memorial Home service area including but not limited to Madelia, Lake Crystal, Amboy, Butterfield, Odin, St. James, New Ulm, Hanska, Truman and Trimont.

Eligibility Requirements:

- High School senior or college student from LMH Service Area enrolled in or planning to enter an accredited college within one year of graduation from high school with plans to pursue a health care career.
- A scholarship preference will be given to active youth members in one of the Lutheran congregations that support Luther Memorial Home.

Qualifications:

- Applications will be reviewed with a focus on the students' goals and aspirations and academic record.
- GPA and relevant classes
- Participation in school, church, community and volunteer activities

All students must submit an application and personal statement sharing their goals in Healthcare.

Luther Memorial Home Scholarship information – Overview is posted on bulletin the board in the social hall. Copies of the scholarship application are available in the church office.

“Take a Tuesday!” Crossroads, the ELCA Lutheran Campus Ministry at MSU-Mankato, has been serving lunch from 11 to 1 p.m. each Tuesday. The program is called ‘Lunch for a Buck’. Crossroads is currently looking for volunteer groups who would like to “take a Tuesday”, and create a meal for approximately 30-35 students. Come, learn about Crossroads and gather in fellowship with our students. If you are interested, please call Crossroads at 625-6779 or check out the website at <http://crossroadsatmnsu.org>

ELCA Global Links

Southeast Asia: strong monsoons rains cause massive flooding

Four tropical storms and heavy monsoon rains since July have caused widespread flooding throughout Southeast Asia, including in Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam, Laos, Burma and the Philippines, resulting in over 900 deaths and affecting an estimated 9 million people. See www.elca.org/disaster.

Order the new 2012 Global Mission Map Brochure now!

Filled with a panorama of photos and stories from across the globe, an overview of mission rooted in relationship. Learn how your gifts and offerings are turned into effective ministry around the world. Perfect for Epiphany and annual meetings. To order 10 or fewer copies, call 800-638-3522 or email ris@elca.org. To order more than 10, see http://resources.elca.org/Products-Global_Mission.html

Germany: sing where Luther began the Reformation

Take your choir to the International Choir Forum in Wittenberg, Germany, between May and October 2012. There you can sing in the Castle Church, take advantage of the many musical offerings and see the sites of Luther. See www.elca.org/wittenberg under "Towards 2017: The 500th Anniversary of the Reformation."

The next issue of *Sidelites* will be in mailboxes Feb. 19. Please have items for the newsletter to JoEllen by 3 p.m., Feb. 14. Thank you!

OSLC YOUTH NEWS

FEBRUARY 2012

ATTENTION YOUTH & PARENTS:

We have some upcoming fundraisers and are in need of youth and adult help. The Annual Meeting Dinner is February 5 at noon. There is a sign-up sheet for helpers on the youth board by the church office.

LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS:

Lenten Soup Suppers are starting February 29 and are each Wednesday evening. We are in need of youth and adults willing to come to church on those Wednesdays to start the soup, serve the meal and clean up. We will also need donations of soup, sandwiches, chips and desserts each week. Look for the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the social hall.

ROLLS FOR FELLOWSHIP HOUR:

Families are needed to help with rolls on the first Sunday of each month. All needed items and instructions are in the kitchen. Please come to church Saturday evening to set-up the rolls. Sunday morning the rolls are baked and served. The Board of Fellowship is there on Sunday mornings as well to make the coffee.

KWIK TRIP GIFT CARDS:

We continue to need help selling Kwik Trip cards and cookbooks on Sunday mornings between services. Sign-up sheet is on the board by the office.

HAVE A BLAST AT VOGEL:

Attention YOUTH & FAMILIES of OSLC: The Board of Youth and Board of Fellowship are having an event at the Vogel Fieldhouse on Sunday, February 26 from 1-5:00 p.m. We have two courts

for basketball and fun, a wallyball court and additional games (Wii, xBox, board games, cards) along with snacks. Watch for more details coming soon!

SENIOR HIGH YOUTH GATHERING:

The Senior High Youth Gathering is March 30-31 at the Best Western in Mankato. Information will be on the youth bulletin board by the office, so check out the details and join other youth in the synod for fun and fellowship.

NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING:

There are still openings for the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans July 15-23, 2012. Join us for "Jesus, Justice and Jazz!" The National Youth Gathering is an incredible experience. Join thousands of youth from all over the country to grow in faith. Scholarships are available. Contact Pastor Joyce for information.

BASKET SILENT AUCTION:

The annual Basket Silent Auction youth fundraiser is March 10 & 11 and 17 & 18. We are looking for donations of baskets and items. Please bring your donations to church.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

The Youth Board is trying to keep as many youth activities going as we can. But we need help. Parents, we need your help chaperoning events and helping at fundraisers! If we don't get chaperones for events, they will need to be cancelled. Please think about helping out our youth and getting involved with the events and upcoming fundraisers. We need the fundraisers and your support to continue to offer events, activities and trips!