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# ***SIDELITES***

*Our Savior's Lutheran Church*

*March 20, 2011*

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## **How has our involvement at Our Savior's had an impact on our faith life?**

By Laine and Beth Sletta

Attending worship has been an important part of our lives for a long time, but an unexpected dimension was added to our faith life when we became more involved in the church community. After hearing calls for volunteers in different capacities at church we felt compelled to become more involved at Our Saviors.

We try to serve the Lord by teaching Sunday School once in a while, by greeting or ushering, or even by accepting the call of a committee; but we feel that *we* are truly the ones on the receiving end of the rewards that come with involvement. We have been surprised by rewards we have reaped. We have been rewarded with joy while teaching Sunday School and hearing young children reciting Bible stories they know by heart. It makes us want to learn more . . . not only so we are more prepared, but so we can feel the same joy we see in these kids' faces when they share what they know.

We have been rewarded with a dramatic increase in our support system. Our involvement with committees and fellowship activities has introduced us to new acquaintances who have become friends, prayer partners, and a vast support system to call on when we are in need.

The rewards related to involvement at church extend to our children as well. Our children have been able to feel a sense of accomplishment after completing a musical performance at church or a service project for others. They have received the gift of new friendships after social activities, and a feeling of independence after traveling with other youth from church.

Initially we thought we were only helping others by increasing our involvement at OSLC, but our experiences here at Our Saviors have taught us how much our involvement has done for our family. We have received so much more than we could ever give, and for that we are grateful!

## **How has our involvement at Our Savior's had an impact on our faith life?**

By Peter, Angie, Annika and Micah Anderson

Our Savior's has been our church home for many years, and for our children, their whole lives. We are so grateful for the ministry that our church provides. At one point or another, we have all been involved in the music ministry of our church through participation in choir, bell choir, and Joy singers (back in the day). Peter and I have both served on boards and committees and our children are active in the youth program. They have been involved in Sunday school, Bible school, day camp, Jammin' Juniors and are beginning their summer trips to Shores of St. Andrews, which I'm sure will become an annual tradition for them.

Our Savior's has given so much to us through the activities we are involved in, the message we hear each Sunday from the pastors, the forgiveness of sin we receive each Sunday at communion, and the relationships that we have with fellow members of Our Savior's who touch our lives and help us to follow Jesus faithfully each day. Being involved at Our Savior's not only helps us to grow in relationship with others but also draws us closer to God.

Because we have received so much from our church, we want to give back through our financial offering and the offering of our gifts and time. Our Savior's offers many things to many people, in our church and in our community. All that our church has to offer would not be possible without the contributions of time and money by all of us. As we depend on our church family to help us grow in faith, our Church also depends on us.

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### **Following Jesus Faithfully**

Through prayer...

By encouraging one another...

Through study.....

By participating in worship....

Through financial giving...

# Ministry Focus

## Our Lenten Theme

Our chosen Lenten theme is *Following Jesus Faithfully* ... what does that look like? All that Jesus has given us is a 'sacred trust' to be handled well like a good steward. It requires attention, commitment, and personal responsibility.

We as a board desire to help our congregation towards those ends. Forthcoming will be our stewardship campaign. Soon, you can expect a membership letter, commitment card and automated giving form arriving in your mail. Pastors will be mentioning this in public announcements and information will appear in the bulletin. As you heard from the Board of Trustees at our annual meeting, the congregation will soon be approached with some immediate needs in a capital appeal. Our role as a board is to help that along by preparing the congregation for a capital campaign to service our budget and reduce our debt among other important things.

We also want you to know that a new Time and Abilities form will be introduced and made available at worship. We are doing our best to help everyone understand the importance of each person doing their part to be faithful, responsible members of Our Savior's. There is a lot on our plate as a congregation and more than ever, we need our membership to be faithful, good stewards as we put these initiatives into play.

As people give their testimonials this Lenten season, hear what they have to say. Our congregation has much to offer but it can only do that as we live and respond to God faithfully!

**Board of Stewardship**



Our Lenten tradition of Soup Suppers continues Wed., March 16. A Soup Supper will be held each Wednesday during Lent from 5:30-6:30 in the Social Hall. The youth group is

sponsoring the meals this year. There will be a free will donation taken to help with the expense of bible camp and the summer canoe trip.

Two volunteers (individuals or families) are needed to lead each week. The leaders bring the soup, set up, and clean up. The soup may be homemade or purchased (usually at New Ulm Wholesale). Donations of bars and sandwiches are also needed each week. Please sign up on the bulletin board in the Social Hall if you can help in any of these areas. Please contact Kathy for more details.

**First Communion classes for 5<sup>th</sup> grade students and parents will begin Wednesday, March 30.**

We will meet March 30, April 6, and April 13 from 5:45-6:45 in the Upper Room. We will then participate in a Seder Supper on Maundy Thursday, April 20, and worship together at the service that evening. Feel free to bring soup and sandwich from the soup supper to class. A free will donation is taken for the meal. Please contact Kathy with any questions.



## Palm Sunday Bake Sale!

The youth group will be sponsoring a bake sale on April 17, Palm Sunday. All 4<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade students involved in the youth program are asked to bring 3-5 plates of baked goods. Please contact Kathy for more information.



**Easter Breakfast!** Our Savior's youth will be serving breakfast on Easter morning from 7:30-8:30. The menu includes scrambled eggs, smokies, cinnamon and caramel rolls, juice, milk and coffee. A free will offering will be taken with funds raised being used for bible camp and the summer canoe trip to the Boundary Waters.

## NEW MINISTRY OPPORTUNITY

*"They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people."*

*(Acts 2:46b-47a)*

Wanted: Women, men, families, who enjoy cooking and are willing to share a meal with others.

Life is filled with many kinds of needs, and stresses and sometimes people just need to know others are thinking of them and willing to reach out to them. Families, whether large or small, young or old experience times of crisis, health issues, or other situations where they could use a little assistance and a helping hand by someone providing a meal. The meal is just part of this ministry. A home cooked meal means someone cares. Food nourishes the body, but reaching out to others nourishes the spirit. When a meal is shared it is a reminder that Christ is present in the breaking of the bread. We are looking for people who are willing to prepare a meal and share a meal with someone in our congregation.

Not only do we need people to prepare a meal but if you know of someone going through a difficult time that could benefit from this ministry please contact Darlene Meier (359-7778), Lois Aufderheide (359-2274) or Pastor Joyce. Their situation would be kept confidential.

If you would like more information or are willing to cook a meal please see the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the social hall.

## ***KJLY Christian Radio presents:***

**A Day for Women "Super Woman of God"**

**Leaping Life in a Single Bound!**

Featuring motivational speaker and author Vicki Tiede. Music by Beth Crosby.

Special Testimony by Brenda McVinoa

Are you feeling overwhelmed? Stressed? Life out of Whack? Join us for the KJLY Christian Radio 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Women's Conference "Super Woman of God" on Saturday, April 9<sup>th</sup> at Hillside Church in Mankato (502 South Victory Drive) from 8 AM – 4 PM. There will be music, ministry, lunch, testimonies, and surprises. Space is limited so call 507-526-3233 or register online at [www.kjly.com](http://www.kjly.com)

## **ELCA Disaster Response: Japan Earthquake and Pacific Tsunami**

The ELCA stands in solidarity with its companion on the ground, the [Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church](#) (JELC), as they assess the safety and security of its members and communities served by the church. Through its predecessor bodies, the ELCA has been present in Japan since 1892 and will accompany the JELC in its planned response to this disaster. Elsewhere in the Pacific region, the ELCA remains in contact with companions in the Pacific Islands, South America and throughout the coastal region of the U.S. to respond as needed to the tsunamis caused by the earthquake.

Those who give to shared mission support and ELCA World Hunger are already helping to fund the ongoing work in Japan and the deployment of mission personnel through ELCA Global Mission. Special needs and opportunities have arisen in response to the current crisis. The ELCA invites gifts to ELCA Disaster Response in order to continue its work in Japan and surrounding region.

Send checks to:

***ELCA Disaster Response***

***39330 Treasury Center***

***Chicago, IL 60694***

***Memo: Pacific Earthquake and Tsunami***

## **Garage Sale** The youth group is

sponsoring a

garage sale **Friday, April 29 and Saturday, April 30**. Do you have items you can donate? If so, please bring them to the church the week of April 24. Books, games, decoration, clothes, furniture, gardening items, etc. We cannot accept electronic items or furniture unless you are willing to take them back if they don't sell. We don't have a place to store items before that. Workers are also needed. See the youth bulletin board to sign up for working setting up, taking down, or working at the actual sale.

## ***Pastor's Pondering: Crossing Borders***

What in the world is happening? Where is God in all this mess? Have you heard that lately? With war, disasters in Japan and Haiti, financial issues for families and churches, with health issues, and ... you fill in the blank. What is God up to? The same thing God has been doing for the past centuries. Silently working in and through people and the church, calling people to follow Christ, changing peoples' hearts and calling people to faithfulness. Recently Ron and I have returned from a trip to the Holy Land. What did I see? Where did I see and experience God?

As I stood on Mt. Carmel in a strong wind, I thought of Elijah meeting God on that mountain. As I sat in the Garden of Gethsemane I thought of Jesus and how often Jesus turned to God in prayer. As I waited in line at the church of the Holy Sepulchre (which could be located over the actual tomb of Christ) I sensed the presence of God calling me to just look and to be still and be in His presence. In the midst of all the problems, I saw God in men and women, old and young, Jews, Muslims, Christians, Arabs, and Palestinians, Americans, Germans, Chinese, Lutherans, Catholics, Baptists, all seeking one thing. Peace. Peace with God, peace within themselves, and hope for future of peace. Ultimately, I realized people are seeking a relationship with God to help them make sense out of life.

A couple of places I saw God at work were in Bethlehem and Jerusalem. Christmas Lutheran Church in Bethlehem, has grown to include the International Center in Bethlehem (offering cultural programs in music, art and drama to the community), a Health and Wellness Center and Dar al Kalima Academy (offering secondary degrees in jewelry, media and other arts). The Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Redeemer is located in the Old City of Jerusalem. The ELCA provides a pastor for the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, and sponsors a Young Adults in Global Mission program in which participants assist in ministries in Jerusalem and the West Bank. There is also a Lutheran service held in Arabic each week and an active congregation.

You will be hearing more about this amazing land called the Holy Land in the months ahead and about the amazing work God is doing. We serve a

God who does not see borders of country, denomination, or race. God calls us to cross borders in our own lives and seek peace. Wherever we went people asked us to pray for God's peace. Shalom, peace in your lives, our church, and our world.

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**Bread of Life Kitchen Connection will be April 10, from 1:00-3:00.** We will be dying Easter eggs and decorating them. Whether you're a pro or a beginner, come and share in the fun and conversation. The Bread of Life Kitchen Connection is about cooking, being in conversation, and learning together. You may sign up for these events, or just drop in. Sign up on the bulletin board in the social hall, or by e-mailing [Kathy@oursaviorsnewulm.org](mailto:Kathy@oursaviorsnewulm.org). You may come every month, or just those months it works in your schedule. Once a month, the Board of Education will sponsor the Bread of Life Kitchen Connection on a Saturday. Our first event was bread baking, and we had children as young as five come with a parent all the way to retired people. It was great fun learning and sharing together! Watch for details on what we will be baking/cooking. If you have a baking or cooking specialty you would like to share at the Kitchen Connection, contact Kathy at church.

### **Sunday School teachers and leaders are needed!**

**Rotation leaders** are needed for **Arts and Crafts , Games and Science** for Session 5 (March 13-April 10).

Please contact Kathy if you can help in one of these areas or if you have any questions about being a rotation leader.



**Be A Teacher**  
*There's a place where  
only you fit!*



## Ladies of Our Savior's:

March has been a busy time already. We started out with hosting World Day of Prayer on the 3rd and 4th. We tried something new this year, one service in the evening and one service in the morning. Thanks to all of you who helped in any way. Then came the bold Women weekend the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>. Women you did a great job. Thank You.

Graduation is not far off, so we will be tying senior quilts on March 17<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 to noon with pot luck to follow. If we don't get the quilts all done we will work on them again on March 22<sup>nd</sup>, which is our next quilting day – 9 to noon, all are welcome.

Conference Spring Gathering will be on April 9th at Lake Hanska. Coffee 8:30, meeting and program at 9:00 a.m.; lunch to follow and all this for only \$5.00. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board, sign -up by April 1st.

Luther Memorial Home will be having a Spring Festival April 12<sup>th</sup> at Trinity Lutheran Church, Madelia. This is a fund raiser for the Auxiliary, they need some help. If you can help in anyway please call Dale Nelson or Kathy Carlson.

Coming up on May 7<sup>th</sup> we will be having our Spring Brunch. Ladies bring your Mom's, Grandmothers, Granddaughters', or even just a friend. We will be having more information as the date comes closer. Save the date – May 7<sup>th</sup>.

Until next month.....

Yours in the Lord,  
Linda Postel

**What:** Luther Memorial Home Auxiliary – Spring Festival

**Date:** Tuesday, April 12

**Time:** 10:30 AM – 1:00 PM

**Where:** Trinity Lutheran Church, Madelia  
Salad Luncheon from 11 – 1 p.m.

Adults: \$6.00

Luther Memorial Home is in need of crafts and baked items to sell at the Spring Festival April 12. If you would like to donate, please call Dale Nelson at 359-4280 or Kathy Carlson at 354-2644. Your donations would be greatly appreciated.

## SNAPSHOT: A look at hunger

### Who is Hungry?

There were close to 2 million visits to Minnesota's food shelves in 2007; food shelf use is still at record highs. Food shelves distributed 47 million pounds of food in 2007. 56% of those who visit food shelves have children. Hungry kids have difficulty learning and have more medical problems and absenteeism than children with healthy nourishment. 20% of adult food shelf clients are elderly. More than 50% work; in the Twin Cities suburbs, 60% of food shelf clients are the working poor.

### Why so many people?

People using food shelves do not earn enough to cover their basic needs: they average less than \$1,000 a month. Low wages without benefits, child care expenses, skyrocketing housing and fuel costs, and high out-of-pocket medical expenses make working families vulnerable to hunger. The poverty rate (\$20,650 for a family of four) is an annual income level used to determine federal and state benefits. It has not been updated to reflect today's cost of living. This means many struggling families cannot qualify for housing and child care subsidies or food stamps. According to the Minnesota Housing Partnership, a worker who earns the minimum wage in Minnesota would have to work 117 hours a week in order to afford a standard two-bedroom apartment. We help restock more than 260 food shelves each year by directing the largest annual food and cash drive in the state, known as the March Campaign. The effort provides about half of the food distributed at food shelves each year. In 2008, the March Campaign raised 9.1 million combined dollars and pounds of food, working with the food shelves across the state and thousands of corporations, congregations, schools, civic groups and individuals. All of the money raised during the March Campaign goes to purchase food in Minnesota food shelves. Minnesota FoodShare seeks permanent solutions to hunger, mobilizing advocates to address public policy issues which impact the hungry. Minnesota FoodShare reaches out to Minnesota's low income children and seniors, providing them with information on how and where to access government food programs.

**Participate in the March Campaign!**

# Thank You Notes

## **Dear Friends in Christ,**

Thank you for your continued support of Luther Memorial Home. Your generous gifts of time, prayer, and financial support promote the love of God as we provide care to our residents. God's blessings to you!  
Dawn Campbell

**Thank you to** Our Savior's and the women who knit the prayer shawls for the prayer shawl given to me while I was in the hospital.  
Mona Witt

## **Dear Ladies of the Prayer Shawl Mission,**

Thank you so very, very much for the gift of your prayer shawl sent to me. I have just been diagnosed with breast cancer. I will be going in for surgery this Friday. My daughters have suggested that I bring it with me then, and I will.

Thank you for the prayer that you sent with my beautiful red shawl as well. I am lifted by all of the prayers and by God's presence with me always.

Your former pastor, Todd Nelsen, and his family are special friends of ours. He was an interim at our church, Peace Lutheran in Dresser 18 years ago. He remains a very special friend to my husband (they are scarily a lot alike) but blessedly so!

I thank you again so very much. I am so deeply and richly blessed and I know that God is giving me strength and will be with me every step of the way in this journey and will be with my family as well, always.

With a grateful heart,

Mary Swenson

Osceola, WI

Peace Lutheran Church, Dresser, WI

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**The Clothing Depot** – located at 1600 S Franklin offers free clothing to anyone – no referrals – come check us out.

Hours are:

Monday evening – 6:30-8:00 PM

Wednesday morning – 9-10:30 AM

Any questions – contact Lori at 507-276-6302

## **Women's Triennial Gathering in Spokane, Washington – July 14-17**

In Kind gifts are collected from our women in our local churches to bring to the gathering to distribute to agencies in Spokane that are in need. Items needed are: Health Kits, School Kits, Quilt Kits, Gift Cards (Target, Wal-Mart, Kmart) Pre-paid phone cards, socks.

*See information on bulletin board for items needed in each kit or call Marlys at 354-2996.*

## **Minnesota Valley Action Council**

### **Head Start Open House**

Thursday, April 14, 2011

9:30-10:30 a.m. (Center based information)

1:00-2:00 p.m. (Center and Home based information)

318 S Payne, Room 106 – Jefferson Elem. School – New Ulm, MN

(Please register as a visitor in the school office.)

For more information in New Ulm call Sharon Berg at 507-359-9287.



H O L Y · W E E K

***Maundy Thursday, April 21***

***Worship at 7:00 PM***

***Good Friday, April 22***

***Worship at Noon & 7:00 PM***

Worship services will be held at Christ the King Lutheran Church.

***Easter Vigil, Saturday, April 23***

***Worship at 5:30 PM***

***The Resurrection of Our Lord:***

***Sunday, April 24***

***Worship at 7:00, 8:30, & 10 AM***

***Easter Breakfast will be served by our youth from 7:30-8:30 AM.***