

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

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Worship Services

Saturday worship – 5:30 PM

Sunday worship – 8:30 & 11 AM

Regular Broadcasts

Mon. – 7:00 p.m., Thurs. – 5:00 p.m.

Grace Matters: Sun. – 9:30 a.m. (KNUJ)

(Comcast Channel 14, NU Telecom Channel 72)

SIDELITES

Our Savior's Mission Statement –

Our Savior's Lutheran Church is an open community of believers

- called by God in Christ Jesus to outreach, worship, and growth in faith
- committed to using God's gifts in living service to each other, our neighbors, and the world.

SIDELITES

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

December 20, 2009

Christmas Worship Services

Join us for worship this
Christmas season as we
celebrate God's gift to the
world, Jesus Christ!

Christmas Eve

Thursday, December 24
3:00, 5:30 & 10 PM

Christmas Day

Friday, December 25
10:00 AM

CHRIST 
THE SAVIOR
is BORN!

“This small humble babe, the gift of a son, is bringing salvation to all who will come.”

– We Come to the Manger

Once again we prepare ourselves to receive this incredible gift of God, the gift of a Son, the gift of a Savior, the gift of Jesus. What incredible good news!!! In love, God comes among us, and becomes one of us. It is no wonder that on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, churches across the face of the earth are filled with worshippers who eagerly await this good news.

This Christmas, we invite you to “Come to the Manger.” Come to worship, come to feel the gentle peace of the Christ child, come to see and receive the gift of God's Son. It is our prayer that all of you will experience hope, peace, love and joy as together we celebrate Jesus, God's gift to the world.

Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year!

Ministry Focus –

Annual Meeting of the Congregation of Our Savior's Lutheran Church

***“For just as the body is one and has many members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.” For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body. Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many.”
(I Corinthians 12:12,14)***

Our Savior's Annual Meeting will be held on **SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7th** at 12:30. The Church Council set this date and encourages you to mark your calendar, attend, and become involved!!

To prepare for the Annual Meeting the Church Council also calls for a Budget Forum to be held on January 31st between worship services. The purpose of this forum is to present the budget for 2010 and to discuss the budget. The Treasurer and Board of Trustees will be present to answer questions and to go over the budget.

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 more involved and aware of the mission and the needs of Our Savior's.



Make It Simple Just Give

The Our Savior's Board of Stewardship would like to say thank you to everyone who completed a Make It Simple "Sharing of Our Time and Abilities" form. We are happy to announce that 283 forms have been completed and entered into our computer system. The information gathered from these forms will allow us to assist members of our congregation in participating in the important ministries that we offer at Our Savior's. If you have not yet completed a Make it Simple "Sharing of Our Time and Abilities" form, please complete your form and return it to the Our Savior's church office.

The Board of Stewardship would like to say a special word of thanks to Tanya Wiesner and our office administrator JoEllen Tessmer for entering all of this valuable information into our computer system.

Again, thank you to all the members of our congregation for sharing your gifts for ministry here at Our Savior's.



Stewardship 101

To receive tax credit for 2009 contributions to Our Savior's, all contributions must be received in the church office no later than December 31, 2009. The board of stewardship would like to thank all members of the congregation for their financial support of the ministries to which God has called our congregation.

Gifts and Donations to Our Savior's

Our Savior's receives many useful gifts and decorations intended to be used for the purpose of ministry. We are grateful for the many donations we receive throughout the year. If you have a gift you would like to share with the church, we ask that you would first speak with one of the pastors to discuss the intended use of your gift before bringing them to the church. By doing this, gifts and donations can be directed to the appropriate board, committee, or organization so your gift can best be used in our ministry.



Board & Committee Chairpersons:

Board and Committee reports to be included in the 2009 Annual report are due in the church office no later than **Sunday, January 3rd**. Reports may be dropped off in the church office, or emailed to JoEllen@oursaviorsnewulm.org.

**There will be NO Sunday school on
December 27 or January 3.**



Stephen Ministry

January 10th seven people will begin 50 hours of training to be Stephen Ministers. They are: Marcia Jarrett,

Larry Zimmermann, Margie Larson, Diane Lambrecht, Marlys Zetah, Maxine Remme and Barb Wurtzberger. The training will be completed April 24th. We are excited to begin this next step in the journey of implementing the Stephen Ministry in this congregation. We ask that you keep us, the Stephen Leaders and those who will be receiving training in your prayers in the weeks ahead. We believe that prayer is a vital foundation for this ministry in our congregation.

As members of our Stephen Leader Team gather together Lord, we ask for your presence among them. Bless their time together and unite them in their love for and service to you. Guide their vision for caregiving ministry as they make decisions so that our congregation can effectively bring your love to individuals in need. Thank you for the gifts of leadership you have given each of them and for their willingness to use those gifts to your glory. We pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

-Your Stephen Leaders: Deb Bastian, Kathy Hopf, Carla Zimmermann, and Pastor Joyce

The Steadfast Love of the Lord (story of Stephen Ministry in action)

My Stephen Minister was first assigned to me after I had been coming to church for more than a year. Since I had already been living in a nursing home for five years, my first thought was, "I wonder how long he will last? Will he be like everybody else and fade away after a few weeks?"

He began visiting with me in August. When November rolled around, he was still coming! December marked the start of a new church year, and he began telling me about the church seasons. After a while, I started asking him questions. I was amazed that an ordinary lay person could know so much about the church. While he did not know all the answers, he continued to impress me because, if he did not know, he would find out and bring me the answer the following week.

One of the best ways to learn is by example, and I have learned a great deal since I began watching my Stephen Minister three years ago. And I am still learning today as he faithfully visits me week after

week. Through my Stephen Minister I have learned to be patient. I have learned to love and to trust. I have learned to pray, and I have learned how to worship our God. I have learned the importance of Holy Communion. Most of all, my Stephen Minister has given me the confidence to be close to our Lord. (It makes it a little easier to be a Christian when a caring Christian comes to see you every week.)

Through Stephen Ministry, I have learned the meaning of Christian love and Christian virtue. After years of thinking that nobody cared about me, I know what it means to have somebody who really does care--and keeps on caring, without growing weary of it. And my Stephen Minister was always there for me when I needed him! He was there for me when my mother became ill, and he was still there after she died. He was there when I moved to a new home. In fact, I cannot really recall what life was like when he wasn't there. And I can count on the fact that he'll be there at our visit next Tuesday!

I now am truly beginning to understand what Paul meant when he told the people of the Church at Corinth, "Be ye steadfast in the Lord." That's what Stephen Ministers are--steadfast in the Lord. And with the help of my Stephen Minister, I can be steadfast too.

New Member Orientation Scheduled

Those interested in making Our Savior's their church home should mark their calendars for Wednesday evenings January 20th, 27th, and February 3rd for Our Savior's New Member Orientation. These orientation sessions are intended to familiarize you with the ministries of Our Savior's and introduce you to our congregation. We will meet for one hour on these Wednesday evenings and a light supper will be served. Nursery will also be available for young children. New members will be received on Sunday, February 7th. If you or someone you know is interested in membership at Our Savior's please contact the church office at 233-4430.

Kwik Trip Card fundraiser continues!

We will be receiving 10% of everything we sell until July. The youth group raised about \$5000 during the first year of the fundraiser. Thanks for your support!

Discipleship Diary—Pondering

Mary kept all these things to herself, holding them dear, deep within herself. The shepherders returned and let loose, glorifying and praising God for everything they had heard and seen. It turned out exactly the way they'd been told!

Luke 2:19-20 (The Message)

Dear Discipleship Diary,

I have always been fascinated on what it meant for Mary to ponder the shepherds' words in her heart. Maybe the translation of Luke 2:19-20 helps me better understand what this means. In the awe of the moment, it seems, Mary soaks in every last detail of what is happening; the sights, the smells, the sounds, and the words of the shepherds. This is a moment she will never experience ever again, so she treasures everything about it, capturing with all of her senses the wonder that God had done in that moment.

I wonder if we take enough time on our own to ponder? Do we reflect upon the beautiful turn of phrase in the scriptures? Do we allow ourselves to be stirred by a powerful hymn or anthem? Are we too quick to move from the communion table, to the fellowship table?

As we approach Christmas, I hope to be a little more like Mary and ponder, keeping the good news of Jesus close and deep within myself, so that I may always be filled with wonder and awe.

Soli Deo Gloria!



Pastor's Pondering:

In 2010 our gospel lessons during worship will focus on the book of Luke. Luke is not just one volume but two. Acts is the continuation of the story of Luke. The Gospel of Luke is a journey of Jesus to Jerusalem and the book of Acts is a journey and growth of the church away from Jerusalem. The importance of the life of Christ does not end with Jesus' ascension but rather the gospel of Christ is incomplete without the book of Acts and the life of faith lived out in the early church. Luke/Acts continues the biblical history of God's dealings with humanity found in the Old Testament, showing how God's promises to Israel have been fulfilled in Jesus and how the salvation promised to Israel and

accomplished by Jesus has been extended to the Gentiles.

Luke's gospel contains some of the best-known and best loved stories. For example: Zacchaeus, The Prodigal Son, the road to Emmaus, the birth of Christ, and the Good Samaritan. Here are some other interesting facts about Luke.

- Luke's purpose in writing is stated in Luke 1 and Acts 1, which is to give an orderly account of the life of Jesus so Theophilus will come to know the truth about Christ.
- Luke portrays the importance of prayer in Jesus' life and the importance of prayer in our life.
- Luke has more stories about women than any other gospel. The women play a prominent role among Jesus' followers. Luke begins in fact, with the story of two women, Mary and Elizabeth.
- In Luke's gospel Jesus travels a lot. As you read Luke notice how Jesus moves from place to place, but always on the road to Jerusalem.
- Throughout the gospel, Luke calls upon the Christian disciple to identify with Jesus, who is caring and tender toward the poor and lowly, the outcast, the sinner, and the afflicted, toward all those who recognize their dependence on God.
- Purpose of the Luke/Acts is to strengthen the early Church in the face of opposition and calling people to witness to Christ in their service together.

I challenge and encourage you to read Luke and Acts. Notice what is repeated. Notice certain themes emerging. Martin Luther once offered some good advice to Peter his barber. Peter asked Martin how he, an ordinary kind of guy, could read the Bible profitably. This is how Martin Luther answered. Ask yourself these questions:

- What does God tell me here?
- What makes me glad
- What makes me sad?
- What do I want to pray for?

Here is a prayer as you begin your journey in 2010 with Luke: *Shine within my heart, loving God, the pure light of your divine word, and open the eyes of my mind that I may understand your teachings. Thank you that your word is a light to my feet, and a lamp to my path. Holy Spirit, that we may in such ways read, learn, and inwardly digest your word. For you, Christ my Lord, are my light, and to you I give glory together with your Father and your Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.* **Pastor Joyce**



The Board of Education is still looking for several teachers after Christmas. We need a second grade teacher for January to teach "Meet Martin Luther." We need a rotation leader in science and nature beginning February 14, for the story "The Ten Lepers," and we need six rotation leaders for our last two stories at the end of the year. Sign up on the bulletin board in the social hall or by contacting Intern Kathy.

Green Lake Lutheran Ministries Camp Sunday

On January 23/24, Paul Schumacher, Program Director of Green Lake Lutheran Ministries will be preaching at all of our services. Paul will also host a question/answer time between services on January 24. Not only will Paul answer questions about attending Bible Camp, but he will answer questions about what has been happening at Green Lake, Shores of St. Andrew and Camp House over the last year. Watch for an opportunity to financially assist our kids to camp next summer. Over the last two summers we have sent over 70 youth to camp! This means we have contributed \$10,500 to help them have this wonderful opportunity. The youth board is hoping for your help to make camp more affordable so we can increase the number of kids attending bible camp.

Come one come all



...to the Board of Fellowship
Luau on Sunday, January 31st
at 3:00 p.m. Cost is \$5.00 per person or \$20.00 for the family. Come and join us for a time of food, fellowship, music, and games. Come dressed for the

occasion. If you would like to help with decorations call Mary Lou and Brian Serbus (354-7392) or Jay and Vickie Tambornino (359-3996). There is a sign-up sheet in the Social Hall. Please sign-up before Sunday, January 17th.

Our Savior's Women of the ELCA

The Mission Statement of the Women of the ELCA is:

*To mobilize women to act boldly
on their faith in Jesus Christ.*

At Our Savior's, the WELCA group is acting boldly and living out their faith in a variety of ways. Some of the ways the women act boldly are through monthly Bible Studies, quilting, monthly gatherings, and working with Luther Memorial Home. This past year the women through monthly offerings, the fall bazaar, donations from funerals, the spring and fall brunch, and other donations have raised funds and are sharing \$2,500.00 to various ministries.

The places where the funds are given are: Luther Memorial Home, Sponsor a child at Kikaiti, Operation Concern at OSLC, New Ulm Food Shelf, OSLC Green Lake Youth Fund, OSLC building fund, Brown County Family Services Christmas Fund, Lutheran World Disaster Fund, OSLC Quilting Fund, Compassionate Friends, World Hunger, Pastor-to-Pastor Program, and the Southwestern Minnesota Synod.

Thank you to the women of Our Savior's for your generous sharing of your resources and time and for making a difference in our church, community and world.

Thank you to congregation for the support of the WELCA Thankoffering. \$500.00 was given through the Thankoffering envelopes. Since the early 1900's, Women of the Lutheran church have been sponsoring the Thankoffering. Money given through the Thankoffering supports the total outreach of the ELCA, including congregational and global ministries, and specific programs of the women's organization.



If weather is in question, please listen to KNUJ, Z99, or WCCO radio for cancellations and postponements. The church council has determined that as a congregation we will follow weather and travel recommendations. For midweek classes and programs, we'll follow the lead of the public schools. If ISD 88 dismisses early, choirs and confirmation will not meet.

KIKATITI SECONDARY SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS

The partnership with Our Savior's Lutheran Church and Kikatiti Secondary School in Tanzania continues to thrive, improving the lives of hundreds of young people from this little African village. Scholarship assistance has been critical in allowing young people to secure an education that would otherwise be impossible without the generosity of many of you and others who have heard the story. During 2009 we have been able to sponsor 101 students with tuition assistance sending \$24,000.00 throughout the year to support the young people and school. The new academic year will begin in late January of 2010 and the massive drought has caused even more problems with funding the operation of Kikatiti Secondary School. If your family could consider sponsoring a student this coming year you can make a life-changing difference. Scholarship applications are available in the church office or contact Bill Koeckeritz (www.bill@krhomes.com or 276-2211) with any questions you might have.

Looking ahead...

LifeKeys Bible Study will be held on Sunday, February 21 and 28. Each session will last three-four hours and will begin at 1:00 PM.

Watch for sign up in January.

Family Sunday School – On February 7th, Sunday School will be for the entire family!

We will begin in the sanctuary and then move to various places in the church to learn more about our mission in Jesus Christ. At each station you will learn about a mission Our Savior's is involved in, and then do an activity together. Parents and children need to attend this special Sunday School day together.



SOUL SUPPORT is a group of individuals with chronic conditions such as fibromyalgia, arthritis, heart issues, multiple sclerosis, depression or other temporary or chronic conditions that affect their daily life. We meet for encouragement, laughter, and sharing of issues, ideas, or treatment...oh, yes, and for coffee and snacks. We meet the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month through June, at 10:30 a.m. Come and be heard, cared about, and understood. Share this information with others who might benefit. All persons are welcome to this fellowship time. Questions call Nancy at 354-8049.

Children's Program of Northern Ireland Host Families Needed!

Open your heart and home for five weeks this summer to a 10 or 11 year old child from Northern Ireland. Over 4000 Catholic and Protestant boys and girls from Belfast and surrounding communities have experienced the hospitality of families like yours throughout the Program's 37 years of operation. Children selected to participate in the program this summer will arrive in the Twin Cities June 29, 2010 and depart with a lifetime of memories and friendships on August 3, 2010. Call 651-405-1108 or check out our website at www.cpmi.org to find out how your family can participate in this remarkable program.

WHAT: New Ulm Hockey Breakfast

DATE: Sun., Jan. 3, 2010 **WHERE:** Turner Hall

TIME: 7:30 AM – 12:30 PM

COST: 11 yrs.–Adult = \$5; 4 yrs.–10 yrs. = \$3.50

Sponsored by Cash Wise Foods and The New Ulm Hockey Association

Tickets on Sale from all New Ulm Hockey Players and at the door.

Please Notify Us

If you are hospitalized, ill, injured or have suffered a loss and would appreciate a visit and prayers, please notify the Our Savior's at 233-4430. Due to current health privacy rule, hospitals are unable to provide this information without patient consent. By contacting the church, we are able to provide pastoral care and comfort in your time of need.

County Wide Student Survey Results Presentation Scheduled for January 10th

A county wide open forum presentation of the Search Institutes Developmental Assets Survey results will be held on Sunday evening January 10th, from 7-9 pm at the DAC Auditorium located at 15 North State Street in New Ulm. This presentation, conducted by Shelby Andress of the Search Institute, will present the results of the student survey taken by over 1300 high school students from all 7 Brown County high schools this past October. The survey sponsored by Healthy Communities/Healthy Youth of Brown County is based on the 40 developmental assets (20 internal and 20 external) that research has found to be vital for young people to grow up healthy, caring and responsible. The more assets youth possess the happier and more successful they will be in their lives. Results of the survey will help each school along with Healthy Communities/Healthy Youth address areas of concern and build on areas of strength in curriculum and other programming. Students, parents and other interested adults are encouraged to attend this event and show support for ongoing efforts to 'Empower the Potential and Promise of Our Youth'. For more information contact Mike Brigger at 354-8632.

Thank you

Thank you to Pastor Todd for the visit and prayers before my surgery and bringing me a prayer shawl. I now know firsthand the peace it brings. Thanks to Pastor Joyce for her calls and prayers. And, thank you to the Family, which is our Savior's! Thank you for your good wishes, prayers, calls, food, and visits. I am truly blessed to be a member of this wonderful family of Christ.
Mary Sue Apitz

I would like to thank our friends at Our Savior's for all the good wishes and prayers on my behalf during my brush with cancer. The surgery was successful and I will be checked every three months. Thanks to Pastor Todd and Pastor Joyce for their prayers and to Pastor Todd for bringing the prayer shawl to us. It has been our good fortune for Jerry and I to have belonged to such a caring church since 1951. Merry Christmas to all,
Bernice Harmening

Thank you to Our Savior's members and the board of fellowship for the beautiful Christmas Poinsettias delivered to us.

Ruth Wold & Mayonne Weise (Oak Hills)

I would like to thank the Cards of Caring group for the beautiful cards I have been receiving. I would also like to thank the board of fellowship for the beautiful poinsettia I received from the church.
Cathy Weinkauff

Thank you to the thirty volunteers that helped with the 22nd Annual Advent Festival! What a wonderful time the children and families had as they began their Advent adventure. Our Savior's is truly helping our families grow in their faith together.

A SINCERE THANK YOU!

We are blessed to have the generous and caring membership here at Our Savior's. The Noisy Offering collected on November 29th has raised \$3,200.81 to be used for famine relief at Kikatiti Secondary School in Tanzania. These funds will be wired to the Meru Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania to purchase food for the students at the school.

God bless you all.

Bill Koeckeritz

Thank you to everyone who donated money for decorating the church during Christmas and Advent. The money was used to purchase the materials needed for the Advent banner, the Advent candles, one of the Christmas trees, the poinsettias, and the special Christmas bulletin. We'd also like to thank Kay Nelson for donating one of the Christmas trees again this year.

The next issue of *Sidelites* will be in mailboxes Jan. 24. Please have items for the newsletter to JoEllen by 3 p.m., Jan. 19. Thank you!

