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# SIDELITES

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*Our Savior's Lutheran Church*

*May 22, 2011*

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## *Self-Study Update*

The Transition Team continues to work on the self-study data for council approval in the fall. We had a very productive meeting May 14<sup>th</sup> and set some parameters towards our goal of a final report and recommendation to council after summer is complete and in the books. There are a few phone calls to new members and a few interviews with boards and staff remaining but these are all nearly complete and on target to be finished before our next meeting on June 8th. All other data is in including the meeting with past council presidents.

I will be meeting with each sub-group of the Transition Team prior to our scheduled June meeting, equipping them to organize the data under general, more simplified themes.

I feel we are staying on track and making good progress. I look forward to the time when we can publicly announce a final form document for council examination and approval. Once that is done, we are planning 1-3 debriefing sessions between services to feed back the data to you the congregation for any fine-tuning and tweaking. Once we have done that, we can immediately begin nomination for a call committee.

Your prayers and patience are both vital and important to us as we continue our work – please keep that up!

*Pastor Bill Odermann*



## **Summer Worship Schedule:**

*“O come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation! Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise! O come let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the Lord, our maker.” (Psalm 95:1-2, 6)*

We are created to worship God and to live in relationship with God and one another. The Board of Deacons and Council remind all us to make time for God in the midst of time away for vacation and refreshment this summer. Our regular worship schedule this summer will be Saturday evenings at 5:30 p.m., Sunday morning at 9:00 a.m. and 6:30 Tuesday evening.

We are excited to provide an additional opportunity for families to attend worship during the week on **TUESDAY EVENINGS AT 6:30 p.m.**  
*See you in worship!!!*



**Summer Musicians needed!** If you would like to share your musical gifts with the

congregation this summer during worship either as a worship accompanist or as special music, please contact Shannon Stuckey at

[Shannon@oursaviorsnewulm.org](mailto:Shannon@oursaviorsnewulm.org) or 233-4430.

Thank you!

Vacation Bible School and Day Camp Registration forms are available on the church website or from the church office. These forms must be turned in by June 1. VBS will be held June 20-23 from 9:00-11:30. Day Camp will be held June 20-23 from 9:00-2:00.

Please contact Kathy with any questions.



# Ministry Focus

## Congratulations to the Class of 2011!

Senior Recognition Sunday was held on May 22. At this time our graduating seniors were given a quilt as we recognized this special milestone. Please continue to pray for this fine group of young women and men as they embark on their next adventure:

Zachary Apitz	Megan Ryan
Cassandra Cano	Daniel Rykhus
Joshua Dittrich	Shalyn Salonek
Kelsey Eckstein	Damon Scheibel
Trent Loverude	Ashton Schultz
David Martens	Jenessa Smith
Miranda McKeeth	Gage Vranich
Elizabeth Meyer	Maximillian Mobius
Danielle Ogren	Zachary Wichmann
Jordan Reinarts	



### I'd like to thank Kathy

**Hopf** for her talent and dedication that she has shared with the Adult Handbell Choir over the last few years. Kathy has decided to step down as Handbell Director, but will continue to ring and be a part of the choir. I so appreciate her musicality and professionalism in everything she shares with our congregation. So Thank You Kathy!



Position Open for Handbell Director for Our Savior's Lutheran Church. If you are interested please contact Shannon Stuckey at

[Shannon@oursaviorsnewulm.org](mailto:Shannon@oursaviorsnewulm.org) or 233-4430.

## Stewardship Corner

### Following Jesus Faithfully

The Stewardship Committee would like to thank those of you who filled out and turned in Commitment Cards. This information is valuable to us in the budgeting process. If you haven't filled out a commitment card yet, please do. If you don't know how much you can give, please commit to what you know you can give. Giving us a dollar amount is better than no number at all.

When the summertime comes and we are all going on vacations or to our getaway destinations, we need to remember that at Our Savior's Lutheran all of our ministries, activities and functions continue. Please keep this in mind as you consider your offering to our church. If your summertime takes you out of town often in the summer, automated giving is an excellent, worry free way to ensure that your offering is received by the church in a timely manner. Many of our members have chosen this method of giving and it is working very well for all. If you have any questions about the automated giving opportunity, please contact the church office or Jim Jore at 507-276-4115 or [jjore@newvisionfeed.com](mailto:jjore@newvisionfeed.com)

**Kwik Trip gift cards** continue to be available on Sunday mornings in the Social Hall and during the week from Kathy. We have \$10, \$20, \$50 and \$100 cards available. They may be used at any Kwik Trip for any purchase. You buy the card at face value and the youth group receives 10% of it.

**Summer Quest 2011** is our summer bible reading and verse memorization program for children. Students who register for the program receive a folder with ten bible stories and activities. They also receive a list of bible verses to memorize. Awards are given for several different levels of completion. Three of the stories will be completed at church on our summer bible reading days. Please see Kathy to register or if you have questions.

**Looking ahead...** Valleyfair, Fairmont Aquatic Park, "To Save a Life" movie and discussion, and summer movie nights will be held in August. Watch Facebook, the church website, and the mail for further details.

## Walk to Jerusalem Update

OSLC walk to Jerusalem began in March with the goal of accumulating enough miles to reach Jerusalem by the end of 10 weeks. Over 60 members are participating in the walk.

The journey has taken the walkers from New Ulm to New York City, across the Atlantic Ocean to Casablanca and continuing across northern Africa, getting to the Atlantic Ocean took two weeks. It took another 3 ½ weeks to get across the Atlantic Ocean. We arrived in Casablanca and continued on our trip taking the southern route around the Mediterranean Sea to Jerusalem.

As of Sunday, May 15<sup>th</sup> we have made to Jerusalem and beyond. New Ulm to Jerusalem is 7,352 miles. Together we have walked 7,415 miles!! Well done faithful walkers.

We are excited to hear how people have appreciated this walk. A couple of people acknowledged that having something like this encouraged them to start walking. Also, one person mentioned "Knowing that others were walking encouraged her to keep going." May our walk with one another and our walk with God continue so that we may grow in body, mind, and spirit.

Ephesians 2:10 reminds us, "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared before that we should walk in them." Keep walking for the Lord!!

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### **A note from the church library:**

The library has cleaned out our children's VHS inventory. Please feel free to take whatever you like. They are on a table in the social hall.

### **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.



## Stephen Ministry

St. Matthew said that at the last judgment Jesus will say these words:

"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me" (Matthew 25:35-36). How often have we heard these verses and have tried to follow these words? It isn't always easy, but one of the ways our congregation cares for others is through our trained Stephen Ministers, who go to those in need and care for them.

An opportunity to follow St. Matthew's verses can come in many forms. It can be loss of a loved one, life becoming so confusing that we do not know where to turn, life just becomes meaningless and depression sets in, it is times like these that a Stephen Minister can provide support and care to those that are in need. A Stephen Minister is willing and able to care for you by listening and being there while you work through a rough time.

It is not always easy to ask for help, but one must be assured that confidentiality is a priority for Stephen Ministers. The Pastor and the Stephen Minister assigned as the care giver are the only ones that know who the care receiver is or the issues they face. Please do not hesitate to contact the Pastors if you feel you have a need. They will listen, they will ask your permission to assign a Stephen Minister and then contact a Stephen Minister that will listen, pray with and for you when that is appropriate and be there as a support person.

As members of the congregation we ask for your continued prayers for those serving as Stephen Ministers. Continue to pray for those giving and receiving care. Please notify the Pastors if you know of someone that could use a Stephen Minister.

St. Matthew was speaking to all of us in the above verses, but there are times when we do not know how to help someone who is hurting some way. Contacting a Pastor and they in turn contact the person and then assign a Stephen Minister when appropriate is one way we can help.

Thank you for your continued support for the Stephen Ministers in our congregation.  
Keep in touch! Maxine

## ***Pastor's Pondering:***

### **SEA OF GALILEE**

The Sea of Galilee is the lowest freshwater lake on earth at approximately 700 feet below sea level and is only 13 miles long, 7 miles wide and 200 feet at its greatest depth. The Jordan River is the main source of water for this body of water.

Jesus delivered sermons and performed miracles and lived in this area. A number of important towns are around the Sea of Galilee. Capernaum, which was the home to at least five of the twelve disciples is located on the north end of the Sea. Capernaum is where Jesus made his home as well during his three years of ministry. The Sermon on the Mount and Tabgha, believed to be the site where Jesus fed 5,000 are also located near the Sea. Migdal, the home of Mary Magdalene, is also nearby. Migdal, was the industrial center of the fishing trade, and fish to be exported were first salted here. Today thirty-five species of fish make their home in the waters of the Sea of Galilee but three types seem to be most common in the New Testament record. The sardines were a staple of the locals' diet and these were probably the "two small fish" which Jesus used to feed the multitude. The musht fish has a long dorsal fin which resembles a comb and is today popularly known as "St. Peter's fish." This tasty fish could measure up to a foot and a half long and weigh 3.3 lbs. The third type is the catfish. Catfish probably were the fish Jesus referred to as the bad fish that would be thrown away (Mt. 13:48).

Jesus did many miracles in and around this large lake, including: Stopped a violent storm with a word. (Matt. 8:23-27; Mark 7:31-35) After he rose from the dead, he showed himself to his disciples here. (John 21) Raised a girl from the dead. (Mark 5:22; Luke 8:41) Healed a paralyzed man let down through the roof and (Mark 2:1-12) Jesus caused four disciples to catch a huge number of fish in a miraculous way (Luke 5:1-11) Jesus healed the Gerasene demoniac (Mark 5:1-20) Jesus Christ often walked along the shores and sailed on its water. He taught many people the truth about God here.

As you read the gospel take note of the number of times the Sea of Galilee is mentioned or the number of times the gospel writers say, "And Jesus crossed to the other side."

*Prayer: God of land and sea, thank you for the ministry of Christ. Remind us that Jesus walks with us as he walked on the shores of the Sea of Galilee. As Jesus brought healing and hope to people each day as he reached out and touched others so to help us to experience the healing presence of Christ in our life. Amen.*

*Pastor Joyce*

## **Women of Our Savior's:**

Ladies, there has been a change in the things needed for kits put together for Lutheran World Relief. They have changed what they are now called. Health Kits are now Personal Care Kits; Layettes are now Baby Care Kits. Please see the list included with this newsletter; copy and keep it with you. Sometimes we can find a good deal on things needed.

The last Mission Project work day is May 24 from 9:00 a.m. until noon. We will start again on September 27.

We had our Spring Brunch on May 7. Those that attended (and I think we had the biggest group we have had in years) had a good, fun-filled morning. Thanks to Beautiful Savior Circle for hosting. Thank you to the Men's Saturday Morning Bible Study for serving us (they always do such a great job), and thank you to Pastor Joyce who did a wonderful job of providing us with a most enlightening program.

Saturday, May 14 three ladies went to Granite Falls for the Synod Convention. The day started out early for us. I was not sure how long it would take us to get there. If you ask Sandy Kragness, it was much too early. The day was long and the weather was very cloudy and rainy, so our spirit didn't start out much better. As the day went on we did brighten up, listening to speakers and the music is always worth the trip. Next year's convention will be June 15 in Spicer, and June 16 at Green Lake Bible Camp. If you haven't been up in that area, keep it in mind.

On May 24 we will be going over to Luther Memorial Home in Madelia to help with bingo. If

anyone is interested in helping out call Dale Nelson (359-4280) or Kathy Carlson (354-2644).

We, as a board are talking about having a day Bible study sometime in August. Watch for an update.

I hope all of you have a great summer.

Yours in the Lord,  
Linda Postel

## Thank You Notes

**Thank you to** all of our friends at Our Savior's who helped us celebrate our 65<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary; wishing us well, sharing our day, and being our friends for many years. We cherish you all. Thank you and God bless you.  
Jerry & Bernice Harmening

### **Our Savior's Lutheran,**

Thank you for the lovely flower that was delivered to me by friends of Our Savior's. "All good things come from God, and Easter is one of His greatest gifts!" Celebrate the Season!!  
Gladys DeVelder

**Thank you so much** for the lovely plant and Easter card greeting that you brought to me. God bless you all.

Thank you,  
Aimee Sletta

### **Dear Orv,**

Thank you for bringing us ice cream treats for our last day of choir. We really appreciate it!  
The Children's Choirs of Our Savior's

## **In and Beyond Our Community...**

**WHAT:** Bernadotte Lutheran's Annual WELCA Pie & Ice Cream Social/Bake Sale & Fun!

**WHEN:** Wednesday, June 1 5:30 – 8:30 PM

**WHERE:** Bernadotte Lutheran Church  
Featuring music from the "Lafayette City Band"

## **Bernadotte Lutheran Church will hold its 17<sup>th</sup> annual "Swedefest" Saturday, June 18.**

Starting at 3:00 p.m. – Come early to enjoy our beautiful outdoor park and facilities!

The event will feature a Swedish smorgasbord and family entertainment, including the Riverblenders, the Prairie Drifters Band, Smiley Wiltscheck & Friends, and pianist Kacey (White) Gregerson. This year's event also included horse-drawn wagon rides, a silent auction, and more.

In case of inclement weather, all events will be held in the church. For more information go to [www.fields-of-grace.org](http://www.fields-of-grace.org)

### **A PENCIL MAKER TOLD THE PENCIL 5 IMPORTANT LESSONS JUST BEFORE PUTTING IT IN THE BOX :**

1.) EVERYTHING YOU DO WILL ALWAYS LEAVE A MARK.

2.) YOU CAN ALWAYS CORRECT THE MISTAKES YOU MAKE.

3.) WHAT IS IMPORTANT IS WHAT IS INSIDE OF YOU.

4.) IN LIFE, YOU WILL UNDERGO PAINFUL SHARPENINGS, WHICH WILL ONLY MAKE YOU BETTER.

5.) TO BE THE BEST PENCIL, YOU MUST ALLOW YOURSELF TO BE HELD AND GUIDED BY THE HAND THAT HOLDS YOU.

We all need to be constantly sharpened. This parable may encourage you to know that you are a special person, with unique God-given talents and abilities. Only you can fulfill the purpose which you were born to accomplish. Never allow yourself to get discouraged and think that your life is insignificant and cannot be changed and, like the pencil, always remember that the most important part of who you are, is what's inside of you and then allow yourself to be guided by the hand of God.

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

**Personal Care Kits** (formerly *Health Kits*)

- One bath-size towel (approx. 52"x27") dark color
- Two bath-size bars (4-5 oz.) of soap, any brand, in original wrapping
- One adult-size toothbrush in its original packaging\*
- One sturdy comb, remove packaging
- One metal nail clippers, remove packaging

\*Toothbrush multi-packs may be used by sealing an individual toothbrush in a business envelope; no plastic bags or wrap.

Do not add other items or leave out any of the items listed. All items should be new and in good condition. Wrap all the items in the towel and tie securely with ribbons or yarn. Do not enclose the Kit or any of its contents in plastic bags.

***Approx. cost to handle & ship one kit is \$2.65.***

**Baby Care Kits** (formerly *the Layettes*)

- Two lightweight cotton t-shirts
- Two long or short-sleeved gowns or sleepers (without feet)
- Two receiving blankets, medium-weight cotton or flannel, or crocheted or knitted with lightweight yarn, up to 52"square
- Four cloth diapers, flat fold preferred
- One jacket, sweater or sweatshirt with a hood, or include a baby cap
- Two pairs of socks
- One hand towel, dark color
- Two bath-size bars (4-5 oz.) of gentle soap, in original wrapping
- Two diaper pins or large safety pins

Do not add other items or leave out any of the items listed. Gently used, clean items (no stains or tears) can be substituted for new ones. Wrap items in one of the receiving blankets and secure with diaper pins. Do not enclose the Kit or any of its contents in plastic bags.

***Approx. cost to handle & ship one kit is \$1.30***

**(Save paper, postage, planet)**

Would you be happy to receive your *Sidelites* newsletter via email **ONLY**, rather than picking it up from your church mailbox or receiving it in the mail?

If you would like to receive your newsletter via email **ONLY**, please either email your request to JoEllen@oursaviorsnewulm.org or complete the form below.

Please send my *Sidelites* newsletter via email **ONLY** and remove my household from the newsletter mailing list.

NAME:

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EMAIL ADDRESS:

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- You will receive your newsletter with the following subject line:

**Our Savior's – Newsletter**

Our Savior's may also periodically email you information on church news/events.

- Periodic email updates will have the following subject line:

**Our Savior's – It's News to Me**

*(Please be sure to indicate the email address you would like the newsletter sent to if it is an address other than the one you send your email request from.)*

***Thank you for your help!***