

OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN

MONTHLY Newsletter (Large Print)

January 2012

OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Office Hours Wednesday, 8:30 – 11:00 a.m.



NEWSLETTER OR WEB CONTRIBUTIONS?

If you have an item for the monthly newsletter, please have it to Michelle by Wednesday, January 25. If you would like the color version of the newsletter, it is available online as well. If you would prefer to only receive the newsletter electronically, please notify Michelle. Items for Facebook can be submitted to Michelle or Jeff McQuistan at any time. Jeff also manages the website.

PASTOR'S CORNER



Our hope is that, as your faith continues to grow, our area of activity among you will greatly expand, so that we can preach the gospel in the regions beyond you. For we do not want to boast about work already done in

another man's territory. But, "Let him who boasts boast in the Lord." (2 Corinthians 10:15b-17, NIV)

The New Year begins! What a year of blessings and trials we have had in 2011! Yet in all of them our Lord Jesus has given us strength, hope, life and forgiveness. We know that he will do the same in the year 2012.

As we begin the year 2012, the verse from 2 Corinthians seems appropriate as we make our plans, of course commending our plans to the Lord's will, knowing that he will guide us, and even change our plans if they are against his will. Yet our hope is the same as that of St. Paul in speaking to the Corinthians. **Our hope is that, as your faith continues to grow, our area of activity among you will greatly expand, so that we can preach the gospel in the regions beyond you.** In this past year we have hired an assistant to help me, (Michelle) and I hope that you have seen the help that this has been in activities here at church to achieve this hope. The hope has two purposes, first that your faith continues TO GROW, and secondly to PREACH THE GOSPEL IN REGIONS BEYOND.

To help our faith continue to grow, we are increasing the opportunities on Wednesday evenings. We will have midweek Bible School after school, and then other things for the young adults and adults, with a bit of a coffee shop atmosphere. These are intended as faith growing opportunities, and also opportunities to share that gospel of Jesus beyond our church. I am pretty excited about this, and with Michelle and other people helping, it will be a fun faith fellowship opportunity.

To help us preach the gospel in regions beyond, we will use some of these opportunities on Wednesdays, to invite others, and include them. We are planning a Marriage Retreat on the weekend after Valentines, likely a Friday evening and Saturday. This will help us grow, and help us reach out. We will also

work to expand on the opportunities to work with the Access To Recovery program to Native Americans. We also are planning to use the PEACEMAKER training and books to reach out into the community to offer this service beyond our church. After that, who knows what God has in mind. But let us put an emphasis on using these opportunities to share the life we have in Jesus with others.

Finally, even as we make these plans, I want to say that even as we offer these opportunities, I know that it won't fit for everyone. Don't let that discourage you, rather just continue to live your life in Christ in the things God has given you to do. I AM ALWAYS PROUD of our congregation in that I see us living that Christian life in our work and other activities that we are involved in. Not boasting, just living that life, loving the Lord God, and serving our community. I look forward to serving with you in 2012!

Love In Christ, Pastor

ASSISTANT CORNER

I want to echo Pastor's excitement for the expanded **Wednesday night fellowship** and outreach activities that will be offered in 2012! I hope to see many of you there. This is a great way to stay connected to church if it is difficult for you to attend on Sunday mornings and it is a great way for everyone to re-charge in the middle of the week! We could always use helpers and ideas, so don't hesitate to contact us.

And with expanded activities comes additional planning! I have put together a draft **timeline** for the year and will post it in the church for your reference. Hopefully this will help us plan farther ahead and become more organized. You will notice that some of our **stewardship interest groups will start meeting** on Wednesday nights, such as the individuals who are interested in visiting our shut-ins and people who plan to help with Vacation Bible School.

Please let me know if any **changes need to be made to the enclosed usher and cleaning schedules.**

Finally, I have started a **photo collage** and Internet share site to help people see what we do. Please feel free to contribute pictures.

- Michelle

YOUTH NOTES

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Thank you so much to everyone who helped with this year's Christmas program! It was so much fun and I think our children will remember it for years to come, thanks to the cooperation of our live donkey and the catchy "Mary Merry Christmas" song. Photos have been posted on Facebook and Shutterfly

<http://oursaviorlutheranchurchvalentine.shutterfly.com/> and video is available upon request.



REFLECTIONS ON DISTRICT YOUTH GATHERING 2011: *JOURNEY*

Hi, my name is Kassidy Linabery. I hadn't really had much interest in Youth Group until this year, and the District Youth Gathering was the first time I had gone to an event that was devoted to Jesus and God. I doubted that anything- especially this event- would bring me closer to Jesus. In the days to come after the arrival in Omaha, I would find that I was very wrong.

Before the main sessions that went on every day of the event, there were Fellowship activities, which included lots of different games and dancing. I am



pretty sure I am the only person capable of getting a black eye at a church event. This just proves that me and dancing are not the best of friends. After that was the Main Event. All of these mass gatherings started with live performances from the 211 Band- a band with roots in Lincoln that has devoted their music to God. This is when I was proven wrong.

Even with all the fun and educational activities and inspiring speakers, nothing brought me closer to God than that music did. The band's music connected me with Jesus using something that has always been very important to me- music. The music gave me hope and the desire to be close to Jesus. I still listen to them today, and the 211 band is a reminder that God is always there for me.

I am very grateful for the wonderful opportunity to attend the District Youth Gathering and I would like to thank all those involved with Youth Group and the funding for this trip, especially Michelle Garwood, for dealing with us for three straight days on the trip. Also I would like to thank her for making arrangements to see Clint Miller who had been undergoing cancer treatments at Children's Hospital. It was uplifting for us to see him and I think we made his day just a little brighter. Thank you.

REACHING OUT



A **mini mission trip** is being planned to spend a day sorting and packing donated items at the Orphan Grain Train headquarters in Norfolk, NE. We are **tentatively looking at March 24**. We will need people who are willing to drive. More information, including a registration form, will be coming in the February newsletter.

In preparation for our mission trip, we will be conducting an item drive and will deliver the donations to Norfolk when we visit in March. Please see the enclosed fact sheet and wish list. If one of your New Year's resolutions is to go through your closets, this is great motivation to get started!

It is also a wonderful way to be involved if you are unable to make the trip to Norfolk. Please let us know if you need help transporting your donations to the church. A drop box will be set up in the great room January through March and the deadline will be March 21.

Wednesday Nights 2012

Schedule:

3:45 p.m. – 5:15 p.m.

Midweek Bible School for kids K-5

5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Meal time when meals are served

6:45 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Opening music & prayer

7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Activities & coffee house open

7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Catechism (weekly)

7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Youth Group (bi-weekly)

8:30 p.m. – 8:45 p.m.

Closing song, devotion & prayer

Notes:

You are welcome to **come and go as needed.**

The **children's Bible school** will build upon the Sunday school lesson from the week before with additional activities, games, and crafts.

We will have **supper** approximately once a month. A free will donation will be taken to help cover food expenses. Coffee, tea, Kool-Aid and snacks will be available every week.

Musicians are welcome to share their talent during the opening and closing.

January Activities:

4th—Kick off with pizza party at 5:30 p.m., followed by family game night. Bring your favorite games and cards!

11th—Mom's Circle starting at 7:00 p.m. Free childcare available

18th—Stewardship meeting for elderly visitation starting at 7:00 p.m.

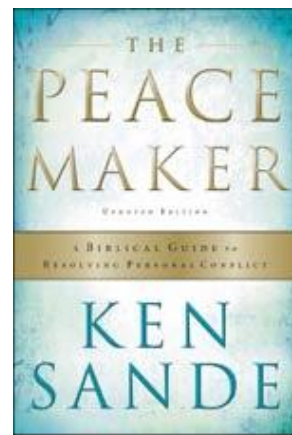
25th—Service project night. Start organizing donations for Orphan Grain Train. Vacation Bible School stewardship meeting. Both activities start at 7:00 p.m.



There will be an open coffee house area each week from 7:00—8:30 p.m. where you are welcome to read, talk, play cards, pray, do homework or just relax. So if there is not an activity that matches your interests that week, still feel free to come and enjoy some informal fellowship!

PEACEMAKERS CLASS

Congratulations to Terry and Judy Hunt, Shane and Brenda Hamilton, Bonnie Weaver, and Pam Shelbourn who just completed the latest “Peacemakers” class. That brings the total number of “Peacemakers” graduates in our congregation to fourteen.



The Peacemakers Class is a uniquely Christian approach to recognizing, understanding and dealing with conflict— from minor squabbles to major differences. Please visit with any of the graduates or with me to learn more about it.

We are also considering some Peacemaker training where we can use a combination of on-line and face-to face learning opportunities. This may work for those of with a full schedule and a busy life. Again, please let me know if you are interested in this approach.

The angels at Christ’s birth said it well, “Peace on Earth”. Jesus truly is our Peace.

- Bud Stolzenburg

BRING YOUR VALENTINE TO MARRIAGE RETREAT 2012!

Looking for a God-centered way to celebrate Valentine's Day this year in the Heart City? Plan to attend the first annual OSL marriage retreat.

February 17-18

More details will be coming in the February newsletter. The retreat will start with an evening meal and speaker on Friday evening. Saturday will be a full day of learning activities with your partner. The retreat is also open to couples contemplating marriage. FREE babysitting will be provided. **Please RSVP by contacting Michelle by February 15.**



Moms Circle

Starting January 11, 2012

Open to Moms of all ages

Meeting the second Wednesday of the month

Our Savior Lutheran Church, 130 E 3rd St, Valentine

7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

This group is open to the community, regardless of church affiliation.

**Snacks, discussion, activities, devotions, and free
babysitting!**

UPCOMING EVENTS

Ongoing

Catechism each Wednesday @ 7:00 p.m.

Youth Group 1st & 3rd Wednesdays @ 7:00 p.m.

Women's Bible Study each Thursday @ 12:00 p.m.

Adult Bible Class each Sunday @ 9:45 a.m.

Sunday School each Sunday @ 9:45 a.m.

Wednesday Night Fellowship each week, worship starting at 6:45 p.m.

Mom's Circle 2nd Wednesday of the month @ 7:00 p.m.

Special Events

January 4—Wednesday Night kick-off with pizza party @ 5:30 p.m., followed by family game night.

January 9—LWML @ Crookston @ 5:00 p.m.

January 18—Stewardship meeting for elderly visitation @ 7:00 p.m.

January 25—Stewardship meeting for Vacation Bible School @ 7:00 p.m.

February 17 & 18—Marriage Retreat, times TBA

March 24—Tentative date for Orphan Grain Train mission trip

April 15—Confirmation

May 21-25—VBS in the evening

January Church Cleaning

Dec 25 & Jan 1—Garwood
9 & 16—Beel
23 & 30—Dusenberry

February Church Cleaning

6 & 13—Jacobs
20 & 27—Sayer

January Ushers

Billy Beel
Liam Beel

February Ushers

Jeff Sayer
Rick Jeffers

January Communion Helper

Liam Beel

February Communion Helper

Wyatt Galloway

January Candle Lighter

Jack Lancaster

February Candle Lighter

Broeden Westover

January Birthdays & Anniversaries

3	Jeremy Strong	18	Cyndi Hawthorne
5	Chaz Krueger	20	Brandon Sayer
7	Val Poulsen	22	Wyatt Galloway
13	Nathan Luchsinger	23	Billy Beel
13	George Heinert	24	Linda Schafer
15	Matt Jeffers	27	Payge Poulsen
16	Jasen Ramos	29	Ethan Utecht

Next newsletter deadline: January 25