

OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

Volume XXV, Issue 2

February 2010

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Our Savior Lutheran Church Living Faith Center

WORSHIP WITH US

Traditional Worship	8:00 AM
Good God Class (to 2/14)	8:15 AM
Sunday School Classes	9:30 AM
Adult Class (begin 2/21)	9:30 AM
Traditional Worship	9:30 AM
Contemporary Worship	11:00 AM

Ash Wednesday, February 17

Services 12:00 & 7:00 pm

Wednesdays, February 24—March 24

Lenten Meal 5:30pm, Lenten Service 6:15pm

SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY, FEB. 7! Our L.O.S.T. youth join millions of kids across the nation in collecting donations to fight hunger. Your dollars will go to the women's shelter.

OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN STAFF

MINISTERS	ALL PEOPLE OF OSLC
PASTOR	STEVEN HERZBERG
ASSOCIATE IN MINISTRY	JANET WEST
OFFICE MANAGER	SUE WADGYMAR
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC	STACY GONZALEZ
ORGANIST/PIANIST	LINDA TODD
YOUTH DIRECTOR	DAWN EVERSON
BELL CHOIR DIRECTOR	ESTHER OLSEN
NURSERY ATTENDANT	JILL RIVAS

COUNCIL MEMBERS

PRESIDENT	LYNNE WATKINS
VICE PRESIDENT	JIM OFFERDAHL
TREASURER	TOM RIESTERER
CONGREGATION SECRETARY	SANDY HUSTON
BORDER MISSIONS	JIM OFFERDAHL
OUTREACH	WENDY FOWLER
	BRUCE TAYLOR
PUBLICITY	SANDY HUSTON
FELLOWSHIP	KATHY SALINAS
LEARNING & YOUTH	DAWN EVERSON
	TERRI JENSEN
PROPERTY	JIM OFFERDAHL
STEWARDSHIP	LYNNE WATKINS
WORSHIP & MUSIC	BETTY COOKSLEY
	JANET WEST

Pastor's Notes

This is the time of year that the church seasons change very rapidly. We just entered Epiphany in January, and now we transition into Lent this month. The Transfiguration of Our Lord on the 14th is a good bridge between the two seasons. Jesus is revealed (an epiphany) on the mountaintop in his heavenly splendor, but the disciples cannot stay there. They have to return down from the mountain and accompany Jesus to Jerusalem and the Cross. That very next Wednesday (Ash Wednesday) we enter the Road to Jerusalem and the Lenten Season. We will have a Service of Ashes on the 17th both at 12 noon and at 7pm. The weeks following that, the midweek events will include a meal at 5:30pm and services at 6:15pm. The Wednesday themes will be "The Sign of Jonah" and will include communion. That pattern will continue until Holy Week. We invite you to accompany Jesus on his Road to the Cross. Bring a friend or two with you. We'll see you then and on Sunday mornings. Pastor Steve



HOMBRES VALENTINE'S DINNER!

We'll have our annual Valentine's Sweetheart Dinner on Thursday, February 11 at 6:30 pm in the Parish Hall. Please sign up in the Narthex. All men are welcome.

ST. OLAF CHOIR CONCERT

Sunday, February 14 at 3:00 pm

Celebrate Valentines' Day with a concert by the renowned St. Olaf Choir. Streamed live to our Sanctuary from Boe Memorial Chapel in Northfield, all are invited to come enjoy their wonderful music.

Nomination's for the May 2010 Southwest Texas Synod Assembly:

There are a number of openings for various positions in our Synod that need filling. Two in particular from this Conference (Rio Grande Valley) are Synod Council member –four year term, Lay Male – and Churchwide Assembly, 2011 member –Lay Female. Other positions are available on the Consultation Committee and Discipline Committee. If you are interested or know of someone who might be a good candidate, let Pastor Steve know.



REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Healing: Ruth Eckman, Sam Smith, Tim Smith, Branch Zuniga. **Shut-Ins:** Gwen Preston. **Family Members:** Gerri Craig (Linda Todd's mom), Norm Frey, Gordon Hutchinson, Burnie Olson, Bob & Lorna Rainey, Kelli Travers. **Friends of Congregation:** Evelyn Davidson, Cassie Hovland, Ila Howe, Wyatt Anthony Kamp, Derek Keniston, Howard Lingg, Debbie Martin, Tillie Nulder, Anita Sanchez, Greg Shartle, Gary Smith, Lucy Snearly, Ed & Gloria Speck, John Stegall, Mike Taylor, Bob Wagg, Jon Young. **In military service:** Cody Crumpler (relative of the Todd's), Justin Garcia, David Lamborn (Jerry & Vicky Ervine's grandson), Sgt. Elizabeth Nyquist (Danny & Lydia Olsen's daughter), Bryan Phillips (Esther Olsen's grandson), Ramiro Sandoval (Burnhams' son); Brian Ruiz (cousin of Ruiz family), Michael Sanchez (Linda Todd's grandson), Tony Soderquist (nephew of Delaneys), and David Westfall (grandson of Gwen Preston). **For the friends and family** of Mary Ann Hadan, who passed from life through death to life eternal on Dec. 30, 2009.

"MY CUP RUNNETH OVER"

The Rio Grande Valley Women's Spring Gathering will be held on Saturday, February 27th in our own Parish Hall. Registration and coffee start at 8:30am. Mary Lovig will open the Gathering with devotion and prayer at 9:00am. We are happy to announce Charlotte Maples of Agua Dulce is our guest speaker, sharing the love of Christ with her Joyful Heart Ministry. Pastor Denise Grant of First Lutheran, Edinburg, will lead the Bible study.

Kristy Meyer, representative of Estrella House in Edinburg, will share information on their ministry as a shelter for abused children, along with other presentations. Everyone is encouraged to bring a Teddy Bear of any size for the children of Estrella House. The monetary offering will be given to Comfort House. Special music and Synod reports are from the new Southwestern Texas Synod chairman, Gracie Cooley. The Communion Service will be given by the women pastors of the RGV Conference. Lunch will be served by the ladies of Our Savior. Registration deadline is Feb. 22nd, and is \$8.00. Make your check to Our Savior and note "registration" on it. Questions? Contact Alice Johnson, 956-781-7624.

Bible Classes for Everyone

GOOD GOD QUESTIONS: We'll continue addressing the questions you always wanted to ask until Sunday, Feb. 14 at 8:15 am in Classroom C.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES are at 9:30 am in the LFC

A 9:30 ADULT CLASS will be offered beginning Feb. 21. The subject will be announced.

CONFIRMATION CLASS meets Wednesdays at 5:30pm in the choir room.

GOSPEL OF MARK: Come explore Mark's Gospel in a new way as Dr. Phil Ruge-Jones acts out the entire gospel on Wednesdays at 6:30pm in the Library until Feb. 10. Janet West leads.

WHERE IN THE WORLD IS GOD? In today's world our minds, emotions and bodies can be overwhelmed by challenges, pressing opportunities, unyielding demands and tempting diversions. These devotions face our 21st century world squarely, beginning Weds, Feb. 17 at 5:30 pm.

"A PROSTITUTE, TWO PROPHETS & POOR OL' JOB": Pastor Steve will lead the study of People of Faith on Gomer, Isaiah, Jeremiah & Job on Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. in the Parish Hall.

THE LEARNING COMMITTEE will meet Thursday, Feb. 4 at 6:30 pm in the Friendship room.

Council Clips for January:

These notes are a highlight of items discussed at the most recent council meeting. They are not official minutes. The complete record of council minutes will be available after they have been approved at the next council meeting. Council meetings and committee meetings are open to anyone interested in attending. Our treasurer, Tom Riesterer, reported our actual year to date income is \$286,534. and expenses are \$294,247. Our total shortfall for the year was \$7,713.00. Our income for the year was approximately 4% less than projected. Pastor Steve reported average attendance in December slightly less than December of 2008. Wendy Fowler has volunteered to serve on the Synod's Poverty Task Force. Reverend Mike Robinson will be at our Council Retreat in February and will preach on February 14th. Janet West reported the families that have been attending Listening Hands will be starting English classes here. Ruth Bjork has offered to help with those classes. The Council approved a request for a church wide garage sale on February 20th to benefit Pastor's benevolence fund and two requests from the youth, one to sell grapefruit for youth activities and one for the Souper Bowl fundraiser to benefit Mujeres Unidas. The Council also approved renaming the dedicated account for Angel Food to Food Ministries. Time & Talent request forms are being updated to distribute in mid-February. Education committee reported on a number of upcoming events. They have tentatively set Feb. 27th for a Killer Bees tailgate event. Watch for details. Property committee reported signing the bid from TXU to provide our electric when our current contract expires in March. The new flooring in the administration building has been installed. The vandalism to some of the sprinkler system has been repaired. And, the thermostat and breaker in the Parish Hall have been replaced and repaired. BAMB reported the HOMBRES and the Caring & Sharing committee have installed a sprinkler system and some cabinets at Comfort House. They have also made repairs to some homes in Las Milpas with donated materials and appliances. Worship & Music reported the Gospel Jam was attended by 94 people. Barbara McClellan will be serving as an interim choir director. Other committee reports were for upcoming meetings and events that will be announced in the bulletin and on the church calendar. The next regularly scheduled council meeting is Feb. 12th & 13th. Respectfully submitted, Lynne Watkins

THE RIO GRANDE VALLEY

CONCERT BAND

**INVITES YOU TO A SPECIAL CONCERT
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28 AT 3:00 P.M.
LIVING FAITH CENTER GYM**

FAITH JOURNEYS

Service of Healing

**Thursday, February 18 at 6:30
p.m. in the Sanctuary**
Ask God to send His healing Spirit to us.



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PEN...

For those of you who missed our Annual Congregation meeting, we had an excellent turnout. I was very pleased to see some of our newest and youngest members present. I will give you a brief synopsis of the meeting.

We have passed our 2010 Budget with the adjustments that were necessary to keep it balanced. The new additions to our Church Council are Bonnie Christian, Rudy Lasoya, and Rayna Delaney. And, I have been accepted to fill another term. A new Council President will be elected at our meeting in February.

Our two representatives for the Synod Assembly meeting are Carol Anne Todd and Rudy Lasoya. We had four people volunteer to serve on the Audit Committee next year. The Nominating Committee will be made up of two of the outgoing 2010 council members and Kim Beasley, Carol Anne Todd, and Sam Milligan.

It is so rewarding to get people together who are willing to share ideas and information. There were a number of good suggestions made that the Council will be able to build on in the coming year. One item the Council tabled until after the February Council meeting was the Time & Talent requests. We may combine these with requests for current addresses and phone numbers. It seems we have some outdated information in our records.

We took a special offering for the victims of the earthquake in Haiti. The generosity of our people never ceases to amaze me. I don't have the exact number as some is yet to come in, but it is approximately \$3,000. We will send that off with many prayers for comfort, strength and healing.

In closing I want to thank all of you who have helped me these last two years.

You have blessed me in so many ways. I am truly grateful for your patience and understanding. God bless each and every one of you.

With love in Christ, Lynne

BIRTHDAYS

- 4 Loic Pehrson
- 6 Thomas Schuette
- 8 Jani Burnham
- 10 Justin Garcia
- 12 Ramiro Sandoval
- 12 Eleanor Stapf
- 13 Bob Bitner
- 16 Barb Rush
- 19 Bob Hadan
- 19 Fern Kreidler
- 21 Courtney Huston
- 22 Adeline Fry
- 23 Annette Neubauer
- 25 Vern Einhorn
- 25 Robert Olson
- 25 Hope Young
- 27 Kurt Von Rosenberg
- 28 Mary Hill
- 28 Carlos Wadgyamar



ANNIVERSARIES

- 10 Ken & Karen Dreier
- 14 Roger & Jani Burnham
- 14 Branch & Amy Zuniga
- 19 Arvid & Maddy Mann
- 24 Hal & Dorothy Case
- 28 Delroy & Annette Neubauer

Jottings from Janet

The air is filled with excitement, expectation, and enthusiasm as we begin a new year. This is a time of new beginnings, and of opportunities to listen to the Lord as He directs our path for the coming year. I am pleased to tell you all that I have formally accepted the call to become your AiM. Bishop Tie-mann is coming to Our Savior on Palm Sunday to lead worship and commission me. Needless to say I am overwhelmed with joy!! The Listening Hands ministry is up and running. We have seven families and are beginning English lessons led by Ruth Bjork for all those who are interested. The group is becoming a little family and our prayer is that with the classes, food pantry for the children, and eventually the church garden we will help enrich their lives and equip them to better care for themselves.

The response to Adult Bible study classes is so wonderful and we are being challenged to find new and interesting classes for you to participate in. We will interrupt our study of the Gospel of Mark on Wednesday nights to do a Lenten journey called "Where in the world is God?" This class brings the Lenten journey to today's world and helps us to understand that God is truly present today and everyday. Come and join us for this time together. One of my jobs is to act as liaison for you all with the Pastor and the council. If there is something troubling you please come and talk with me so that we can resolve your issues and not let them get out of hand. I will always be available to listen.

In His name...Janet

4th Annual Lutefisk Dinner!! Feb. 6, 11:30am & 12:30pm.

Mixing of the Lefse Tuesday, Feb. 2 at 9:00am; **Rolling of the Lefse** Thurs, Feb 4 & Fri, Feb 5 at 1:00pm; **Meatball Making** Thurs, Feb 4 at 9:00am; **Potato Peeling** Fri., Feb 5 at 9:00am. Plan come and help. **Follow-up meeting** Weds., Feb. 10, all at 5:30 pm, all in Classroom C.

Check out the application for Lutefisk inspector posted in the Narthex!!

12 Months

The information that follows is the final report for 2009

Income for 2009

Actual \$286,534

Budgeted \$298,300

Difference \$11,766 Income less than planned by 3.9%

Expenses for 2009

Actual \$294,247

Budgeted \$298,500

Difference \$4,253 Expense less than plan by 1.4%

General comments:

Income was about \$11,000 less than planned while expenses were about \$4,000 less than planned. Most of the income reductions occurred during the last quarter of 2009 and expenses were reduced as these lower contributions were identified.

The mortgage reduction effort resulted in the balance of the Mortgage being reduced to \$291,556.

Respectfully submitted, Tom Riesterer, Treasurer

SHARING AND CARING

Every communion Sunday we collect food for distribution to Las Milpas Colonia near the border on the US side or a Colonia in Reynosa: **February 7th: Peanut Butter & Tortillas and February 21st: Canned Vegetables & Jello.** Any food is appreciated and needed. We just pick these to try to get the most needed items distributed periodically. Our group has been busy gardening and helping out at the Comfort House with a new bathroom sink and a sprinkler system for the garden. Our men are working in Las Milpas on two very needed houses. They have installed a donated stove, water heater, kitchen sink, windows and doors. If anyone is interested in helping please come to our meeting Thursday, February 4th at 6:30 PM.

PIECEMAKERS — IT WAS A VERY GOOD YEAR!

Organized in October of 2003, our Piecemakers have made and donated over 1400 quilts to the needy in this area on both sides of the border. We have grown substantially since our first donation of 35 quilts in 2003; we've just experienced our best year yet, donating 393 in 2009. We work from 9 – 3 nearly every Tuesday. This past year we worked through the summer for the first time (except in July), which helped us reach our large total. Tuesday attendance varies from 2 - 7 in the summer to 8 – 16 from October through March. As a result of such a successful year we have used a great portion of our supplies. We spent \$1083 for batting in 2009 alone. Now it is time to order batting again. We operate in large part on cash donations as well as donations of cotton or polycotton fabric, and new or gently used sheets. We do not throw anything donated away; if we receive something we cannot use, we pass it on to another charitable organization who can. Our greatest source of income is our biennial raffle; we will also sell our quilts any time for \$75. We will make a special order quilt on request once a year. Our work is really a labor of love. From the women who help each Tuesday, to those who spend hours of their time at home laundering and dyeing sheets or cutting blocks, to those who shop for supplies to those who work occasional extra days in the quilt rooms, our mission is accomplished. Our reward is seeing the wonderful smiles and happy children, and sometimes even parents' tears of joy when they receive quilts. God is truly with us in our work. Words are not enough for us to thank Sue Albrecht, who is a member of another church, but a faithful and important worker with us. She sews most of our quilt tops together, taking the packs of blocks home and returning tops sewn, pressed and ready for batting and backing. Without her dedication to our mission, it would be impossible for us to complete such a large numbers of quilts. Thank you, Sue!

And, thanks to everyone who helped us in this mission with donations of cash, supplies and time. We appreciate your support in helping us do Christ's work of caring for those in need.

OSLC Dime Ministry:

The dimes from the 1st quarter, 2010 will be used to buy quilting supplies for the Piecemakers. Save the dimes you receive as change, and bring them on the last Sunday of the month.

Killer Bee Hockey Time!!! Everyone is invited to our next intergenerational time together at the Killer Bee Hockey Game on Feb. 27th at 7:30. The group rate tickets are \$12.00 (regularly starting at \$18.00). Watch for a flyer to order your tickets. Hopefully we can be the biggest group in attendance and/or the loudest section! Let's all go have a great time enjoying each other and some hockey!!!

ALL CHURCH GARAGE SALE!

It's time to clean out your closets and your garages. Our Savior Lutheran will hold a **Garage Sale on Saturday, February 20th at 8 AM.** The proceeds will benefit our Benevolence ministry. This ministry assists members and non-members with financial aid. The young parents of Our Savior are sponsoring this event. Contact Tonia Herzberg (631-0273) with any questions. Thanks for helping!

Country Gospel Jam!



Sunday, Feb 7 from 2:00-4:30 P.M. Spread the word!

God is seen, Love is felt; Lives are changed.

If you received this newsletter in error, please contact the church office.

This newsletter was taken to the Post Office on January 21, 2010.
Address service requested

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