

# OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

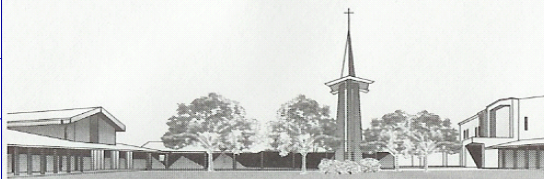
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

Volume XXV, Issue 3

March 2010

## Inside this issue:

Classes for all!	2
Council Clips	2
Women of ELCA	2
Lefse Pics	3
Tee Time	3
Jottings from Janet	3
HOMBRES	3
Sharing & Caring	4
Haiti Relief	4
Gospel Jam	4



Our Savior Lutheran Church Living Faith Center

### WORSHIP WITH US

Traditional Worship	8:00 AM
Gospel of John	8:15 AM
Sunday School Classes	9:30 AM
Traditional Worship	9:30 AM
Contemporary Worship	11:00 AM

### The Sign of Jonah

March 3- "Our Providing God"  
 March 10-"Praying in the Belly of the Great Big Fish"  
 March 17-"The God of the Second Chance"  
 March 24-"About Face"

### Wednesdays, March 3—March 24

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

## OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN STAFF

MINISTERS	ALL PEOPLE OF OSLC
PASTOR	STEVEN HERZBERG
ASSOCIATE IN MINISTRY	JANET WEST
OFFICE MANAGER	SUE WADGYMAR
CHOIR DIRECTOR	BARBARA McCLELLAND
ORGANIST/PIANIST	LINDA TODD
YOUTH DIRECTOR	DAWN EVERSON
BELL CHOIR DIRECTOR	ESTHER OLSEN

## COUNCIL MEMBERS

PRESIDENT	RUDY LOSOYA
VICE PRESIDENT	SANDY HUSTON
TREASURER	TOM RIESTERER
CONGREGATION SECRETARY	RAYNA DELANEY
BORDER MISSIONS	WENDY FOWLER
OUTREACH	LYNNE WATKINS
PUBLICITY	SANDY HUSTON
FELLOWSHIP	BONNIE CHRISTIAN
LEARNING & YOUTH	TERRI JENSEN
PROPERTY	KATHY SALINAS
STEWARDSHIP	JIM OFFERDAHL
WORSHIP & MUSIC	RAYNA DELANEY
	BETTY COOKSLEY
	JANET WEST

## Pastor's Notes

Contact Rudy Losoya at rlosoya2@rgv.rr.com, or his home 956-687-7839 or cell 956-605-0592.

Lent has arrived. Our preparation for Easter has begun. We don't get to resurrection without going through the Cross. It was that way for Jesus and is that way for those who would follow Him. May you join us on that journey during these days and weeks of Lent. The Wednesday night services are the most direct observances of that journey. We'd love to have you with us during those times of fellowship and worship. As we get involved in this season of the church year, that also reminds me that the end of the Winter Texan season is also upon us. Where has the time gone? It seems like many of you just arrived. We are thank-

ful for the Winter Texans' presence among us. You add so much to our ministries and service in God's name. We will relish your last month here. (I know some of you stay longer.) Holy Week will fall during the last week of March and the first week of April. On The Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, we will have Bishop Ray Tiemann with us. He will preach at all three services on that Sunday, as well as officiate in the installation/commissioning of Janet West as our AIM (Associate in Ministry) at the 9:30am service. Know that you are invited to participate with us at that special event. We also were pleased to have Rev. Michael Robinson, assistant to Bishop Tiemann, with us for our council retreat and a recent Sunday service. His time spent with us was valuable for the life of our congregation and especially a renewed emphasis on Stewardship. We had our first meeting of our new council members for 2010 and elected/appointed persons to their respective positions. Please pray for the work of these individuals – our leaders for this next year. They need your support throughout their terms of office. Thank them for the sacrifices they make in caring so much for the life of our community. May God be with all of you not only this season of Lent but throughout your lives. Pastor Steve

### Bishop Ray Tiemann

will be with us on Palm Sunday, March 28, for all 3 services and will commission our Associate In Ministry Janet West at the 9:30 service.



### REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

**Healing:** Adrian, Ruth Eckman, Tim Smith, Joyce Tokkesdahl, 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, Eric Doanldson, Cassie Hovland, Ila Howe, Wyatt Anthony Kamp, Derek Keniston, Howard Lingg, Debbie Martin, Bruce Moilan, Greg Shartle, Gary Smith, Gloria Speck, John Stegall, Mike Taylor, Bob Wagg, Jon Young. **In military service:** Preston Atwood (grandson of Russ Sandry), 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).

### "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. We are happy to announce Charlotte Maples of Agua Dulce is our guest speaker, sharing the love of Christ with her Joyful Heart Ministry. 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. Questions? Contact Alice Johnson, 956-781-7624.

**Look who's making lefse!!** Thanks to all who came to help prepare for the Lutefisk Dinner!!



### Bible Classes for Everyone

**GOSPEL OF JOHN:** We'll look at John's Gospel Sundays at 8:15am in Classroom C. Jim Offerdahl facilitates.

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

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

**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. Join Janet West on Wednesdays at 7:00pm in the Library.

**ROMANS:** Paul's letter to the Romans is very different than any of his other letters. Paul addresses many of the important questions that arise when one considers the relationship between God and creation. Pastor Steve will lead the study of Romans on Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. in the Parish Hall.

**THE LEARNING COMMITTEE** will meet Thursday, March 4 at 6:30pm in Pastor Steve's office.

### RIO GRANDE CONFERENCE UMC AND VALLEY INTERFAITH invite you to

#### IMMIGRATION CONFERENCE "BUILDING BRIDGES" EVENT.

Fri, March 19 at 7:00 pm and Sat, March 20, 9:00am to 3:00pm  
First United Methodist on N. McColl in McAllen.

Please RSVP by March 13 at 956-968-3900 or viemail83@aol.com.

### Council Clips for February:

These notes are a highlight of items discussed at the most recent council meeting. They are not official minutes. The complete record 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.

The February meeting was held in conjunction with the annual council retreat. The regular meeting was Friday evening and Saturday was devoted to a presentation on stewardship given by Pastor Mike Robinson, Assistant to the Bishop, Southwest Texas Synod.

Our treasurer, Tom Riesterer, reported that for the first month of our fiscal year we are on track. Income and expenses are in line with the plan. A complete financial summary will be provided by Tom on a quarterly basis. Copies of the financial statements are available in the Narthex.

Pastor Steve reported that \$4.6 million has been donated to the ELCA for Haitian relief work. As Dean of our conference, Pastor attended a meeting with the other Synod deans and received information about the current status of our Synod. It appears we have lost 10 of our congregations and cuts are being made to staff and ministries due to loss of income at the Synod level. Pastor thanked Janet for the blessing her call has brought to him personally and to our congregation.

Jim Offerdahl's appointment as a Council replacement was confirmed. Worship & Music announced the Lenten schedule and that we have a volunteer drummer for the Contemporary service. Learning & Youth announced an intergenerational get together for a Killer Bees game on 2/27 and that the Youth-led worship was well done and well received. Caring & Sharing is still working on 2 houses in Las Milpas and they have been overwhelmed with the responses to food requests. Property committee will begin getting quotes for a new sign.

Council election results are: Rudy Losoya, President; Sandy Huston, Vice President; Rayna Delaney, Secretary; and Tom Riesterer, Treasurer. Committee assignments are: Worship & Music, Betty Cooksley & Janet West; Fellowship, Bonnie Christian; Education & Youth, Terri Jensen & Kathy Salinas; Property, Jim Offerdahl; Outreach, Lynne Watkins; Publicity, Sandy Huston; Stewardship, Rayna Delaney; and BAMB, Wendy Fowler. The next regularly scheduled council meeting is March 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm.



**Jottings from Janet** I am writing to you after our annual Council Retreat and wanted to share the excitement of that event with you all. We have a wonderful council this year with new faces and new energy. Once again as happens every year we begin with some newcomers and end the weekend with a council that has bonded together in faith and willingness to serve.

Our three new council members have certainly jumped in with both feet. Rudy Losoya has agreed to be the President and it will be good for Pastor to work with a man for a change. Rayna Delaney volunteered to be our secretary and work on stewardship what a blessing! Bonnie Christian with her gentle smile will be working on fellowship. We then shuffled the returning members of the council into new positions which I am confident will be great use of their gifts. Needless to say I am very excited about the coming year and hope that all council and church members will feel free to come and talk with me if there is a concern or question.

Listening Hands continues with English classes being taught by Ruth Bjork. She is doing a great job and her students love her. The next two projects for this group will be a monthly breakfast for our moms and kids along with a food pantry. Then as soon as it warms up we will begin work on the church garden. If anyone is interested in this project and willing to help please let me know.

One last note from me is about our Healing Services. On the odd numbered months we have a service with laying on of hands and anointing, communion, and praise; on the even numbered months we have a service with communion and inspirational stories of faith and healing. This service gives us a chance to say thank you to God and to share His blessings with others. Healing is needed for many kinds of situations, so if you feel a need for healing please join us on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month at 6:30 P.M.

God bless us all as we journey with our Lord to the cross during this Lenten season. A challenge for us all: instead of giving up something (like chocolate) let us each take on a project of love and caring.

**BIRTHDAYS**

- 1 Randie Haynes
- 3 Krista Gales
- 3 Charles Matson
- 5 Tonya Garza
- 6 Base Huston
- 6 Brandon Zuniga
- 7 Wendy Taylor
- 7 Sue Wadgyamar
- 8 Russ Sandry
- 10 Ally Beasley
- 12 Marlee Beasley
- 12 Jack Wittcamp
- 14 Betty Frey
- 17 Jenny Drozdowski-Penk
- 17 Damien Sandoval
- 22 David Almquist
- 23 Maygan Hovland
- 24 Hailey Garcia
- 24 Justin Garcia
- 25 Norm Frey
- 31 Hilda Stier

***March***

**ANNIVERSARIES**

- 3 Bob & Carol Bitner
- 6 Maynard & Fern Kreidler
- 9 Morris & Mildred Johnson

**TEE-TIME! It's not just for golfers.**

Tee-time, the scheduled time the golfers start playing their round of golf. Sometimes these tee-times are scheduled days or weeks in advance. Once the golf game begins the players must focus on their stance, swing and give it their all to better their own score. Some golfers have a real talent for the game and some win trophies that they treasure for years. People have been known to use their Sunday morning tee-time as an excuse to "worship God outside on the golf course." Of course, we can either admire or shake our heads in disbelief at their dedication to the game. However, these golfers can teach us all a lesson or two.

Think of the "TEE" as Time, Talent and Treasures. Do we schedule times to serve God and our church, other than attending Sunday morning worship? Do we even serve during worship service? Do we have talents this church could use? Are you a "social butterfly"? This church can use greeters and ushers. Are you a person that likes repetitive tasks? This church can use people to pour lots of glasses of communion wine. Do you like to bake? This church can use your cake or brownies for our fellowship. These areas of service involve time and talents. Do we schedule "tee-times" to give our treasures? Do we plan to give to our church on a weekly or monthly basis? Do save our dimes and coins for the dime ministry or the loose-change collections?

Just as golfers focus on their golf stance and swing to better their game, we too can focus on our time, talents and treasures to better our relationship with God and serve our church. Lenten Season is here. It's a time to refocus on our relationship with God and on what paths He is leading us. It's a time to refocus on what are our time, talents and treasures and how we can use them to serve our church and our community.

Submitted by Stewardship

**HOMBRES**

We'll meet on Thursday, March 11 for dinner and Bible study at 6:30 pm in the home of Rudy Losoya, 4616 N. 5th, McAllen, 956-687-7839. Please sign up in the Narthex. All men are welcome.

We held our annual Sweetheart dinner on February 11 in the church Parish Hall. The meal was hosted by Gene & Sue Nielsen and Ken & Karen Dreier. We enjoyed spaghetti with authentic Italian sauce, and cream puffs for dessert! Great way to celebrate Valentine's Day. Thank you!



## 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: **March 7: Canned Meat, and on March 21: Flour, Masa & Oil.** Any food is appreciated and needed. We pick these to try to get the most needed items distributed periodically. Our men are working in Las Milpas on two very needed houses. If anyone is interested in helping please come to our meeting Thursday, March 4 at 6:30pm in the Friendship room.

## PIECEMAKERS

If you would like to help make the quilts to be given to needy folks, we meet every Tuesday from 9:00am to 3:30pm. Bring your lunch. Can't stay for the whole time? Come when you can, leave when you must.



**ELCA Gifts to Support Recovery Efforts in Haiti Exceed \$4.6 Million** — Since the earthquake in Haiti one month ago, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) has received over 27,000 gifts totaling more than \$4.2 million to support humanitarian relief efforts in Haiti. According to ELCA Treasurer Christina Jackson-Skelton, the ELCA received an additional \$320,000 in a matching grant from Thrivent

Financial for Lutherans, bringing the overall total to more than \$4.6 million in gifts to the ELCA. "We've seen a phenomenal response," said the Rev. Daniel Rift, director, ELCA World Hunger and Disaster Appeal. Rift said members of the ELCA have been "faithful in their giving, bearing witness to the hope for the Lutheran church and communities in Haiti." One-quarter of Haiti's population has been directly affected by the earthquake and that presents an overwhelming challenge for those responding with humanitarian aid, said Rift. "The only way to truly, effectively respond is to build long-term partnerships with Haitians," he said. Financial gifts from the 4.6-million-member ELCA are used to purchase and distribute medicine, drinking water, food, emergency shelter, sanitation and hygiene kits and other materials to aid survivors of the earthquake. Lutherans are also working to provide psychosocial services and other support. The funds are distributed to three partner organizations of the ELCA working on the ground in Haiti -- The Lutheran World Federation (LWF), Geneva; Lutheran World Relief (LWR), Baltimore; and Church World Service (CWS), New York.

Our Savior Lutheran Church has donated \$3,510 toward this effort, thanks to your generosity. LOST also collected \$543 on Souper Bowl Sunday for both Haiti Relief and Mujeres Unidas.



**Country Gospel Jam!**  
**Sunday, March 7**  
**from 2:00-4:30 P.M.**  
**Spread the word!**  
**Last Jam of the Season**

### OSLC Dime Ministry:

Every dime we receive in change reminds of our tithes to God. The dimes from the 1st quarter of 2010 will be used to buy quilting supplies for the Piecemakers. Save the dimes you receive and bring them on the last Sunday of the month. The Dime Bear in the Narthex is the place to put them. Thank you.

**A Special Request** from one of our members who remembers julekage from his childhood...Does anyone have an authentic **Julekage recipe** you would share with us? Please call the church office.

One of the greatest gifts we can give each other is to be happy and share our happiness. Statistics show that happy people will earn more, be healthier, have more friends, live longer, and enjoy better marriages than unhappy people. So, laugh, be an optimist, hope, and be kind and caring. And, smile!

*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 February 18, 2010.**  
**Address service requested**

### **DATED MATERIAL**

Need to send a fax? Call the office.  
www.oursaviorcallen.org  
Email: oslcelca@AOL.COM  
Phone: 956-631-6121

U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
PERMIT #65

March 2010

OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN  
CHURCH  
1105 WEST FERN AVE  
MCALLEN, TX 78501

