

OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

Volume XXIV, Issue 11

November 2009

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Our Savior Lutheran Church Living Faith Center

WORSHIP WITH US

Good God Questions	8:15 AM
Sunday School Classes	9:15 AM
Jesus I Never Knew	9:30 AM
Traditional Worship	9:30 AM
Contemporary Worship	11:00 AM

Reception of New Members, Sunday, Nov. 1
 We welcome Ken & Karen Drier; Kathy Towse; Shelby & Chris Getschmann and children, Randie & Austin; Sarah Young and children, Hope & Jude; Carolanne Todd; and Donald Drozdowski. We give thanks to God for the commitment of these individuals and pray God's blessing upon them in their time with us. We are all part of Saints of God and want to celebrate with these special saints on that special Sunday.

OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN STAFF

MINISTERS	ALL PEOPLE OF OSLC
PASTOR	STEVEN HERZBERG
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	BRUCE TAYLOR
	WENDY FOWLER
PUBLICITY	SANDY HUSTON
FELLOWSHIP	KATHY SALINAS
LEARNING & YOUTH	DAWN EVERSON
	TERRI JENSEN
PROPERTY	RICK GALES
	JIM OFFERDAHL
STEWARDSHIP	LYNNE WATKINS
WORSHIP & MUSIC	BETTY COOKSLEY
	JANET WEST

Pastor's Notes

Greetings to the people of God,

This month I would like to lift up two areas – the sexuality decisions of the ELCA and the calling of Janet West as an AIM (Associate in Ministry). . . . Following the decisions of the ELCA National Assembly this past August to recognize homosexual individuals in committed relationships to serve in rostered positions of this church, our congregation has had numerous individual discussions and one open forum for the whole congregation. From those discussions, there has not been any desire to entertain thoughts of changing our church affiliation but rather to continue to work and do ministry within the ELCA as we are presently doing. Our bylaws already state a prohibition of the calling of a practicing homosexual. There is not a desire presently to change that bylaw, but rather to keep

it intact. That bylaw will be passed on to the Synod office in Seguin to inform them of our direction at this time in reference to future candidates for calls to rostered ministry in this church. If you have further questions regarding this information, please do not hesitate to contact a council member or myself. . . . The time is quickly coming upon us for an exciting element in our continued ministry as a congregation in this place. As you know, the congregation decided last January to hire Janet West to work with us these last months of 2009 in various roles as a leader. Along with the end of this year, Janet has completed her studies to be an official AIM (Associate in Ministry) and has been approved for such by the ELCA. Now, it is our opportunity to prayerfully consider this desire to have her be an AIM in our congregation. In order to facilitate this process, we are

calling a special congregational meeting on Sunday, Nov. 8th, following the 2nd service. An official announcement will come to you with the specifics. As your pastoral leader these past four years, I see this as a significant development and opportunity for our ministry together. Janet offers us skills that match well to the needs that we have at this time. Responsibilities that she is and will continue to take on are organizing the adult education program; assisting in worship leadership and preaching; facilitating Healing Ministries along with myself (pastoral visits with the sick and shut-ins; support groups; healing services; office visits); assisting Sue our office administrator in needed areas and especially during Sue's absences; attending all council/congregational meetings and other committee meetings as appropriate; initiating and leading the "Listening Hands" Ministry; and focusing on selected Winter Texan Out-

Continued on page 2



REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Healing: Virgil & Rose Mullins, Pat & Bob Phillips, Tim Smith, Branch Zuniga.
Shut-Ins: Mary Ann Hadan, Gwen Preston. **Family Members:** Carol Bitner, Arlo Buckley, Gerri Craig (Linda Todd's mom), Lena Doering, Norm Frey, Lorraine Petersen, Bob & Lorna Rainey, Kelli Travers. **Friends of Congregation:** Ashton Arizpe, Joyce Barnhart (friend of Diana Clark), Verena Hall, Alice Hernandez, Cassie Hovland, Sally Houston, Wyatt Anthony Kamp, Lamborn family (Ervin's), Howard Lingg, Arlene & Jonathan Luna, Debbie Martin, Karen Montzka (Virg & Rose Mullins' daughter), Joe Parenio, Anita Sanchez, Patty Schneider, Midori Schnose, Lucy Snearly, Ed & Gloria Speck, John Stegall, Mike Taylor, Jon Young. **In military service:** Anthony Carter (friend of Liljedahls), Cody Crumpler (relative of the Todd's), 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).

Mortgage Reduction Sunday Sunday, November 1

Help Our Savior reduce the debt on the Living Faith Center by giving a special offering marked Mortgage Reduction during worship and/or at our **All Saints Day BBQ/Potluck at 4:00 pm**. Special envelopes are enclosed, & they will also be available in the Narthex. Our HOMBRES will be cooking up hamburgers & Hot-dogs. Be sure to bring your favorite side dish, casserole, or dessert.

Following the BBQ, please join us for the **1st Annual "Trunk or Treat"**. Kids – Wear your Halloween costume. Bring a bag for treats. Adults – Bring lawn chairs and decorate your car in a fall/Halloween theme. Bring candy or treats to pass out to the kids so they can go from car to car to collect their goodies. Prize given to the family with the most creative car decoration. Let's all celebrate with food, fellowship & fun!



Bible Classes for Everyone

GOOD GOD QUESTIONS: We'll address the questions you always wanted to ask. Janet West leads Sundays at 8:15 am in Classroom C.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES meet at 9:15 am in the LFC.

THE JESUS I NEVER KNEW BIBLE STUDY: This book gives a moving and refreshing portrait of the central figure of history. From the manger in Bethlehem to the cross in Jerusalem, Yancey presents a complex character that generates questions as well as answers. Meet at 9:30 AM in Classroom C beginning Nov. 1. Leader – Kathy Herzberg

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

"HOW LUTHERANS INTERPRET THE BIBLE": Continues through Weds, Nov. 4 at 6:30 pm in the Library. Janet West leads.

"A GRAND MIRACLE": God became human. This advent study by C. S. Lewis begins Weds, Nov. 11 at 6:30pm in the Library. Janet will lead this also.

"A GREAT-GRANDMOTHER TO A KING, A KING-MAKE, A KING & A ROYAL PAIN": Pastor Steve leads a study of People of Faith on Ruth, Samuel, David & Elijah on Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. in the Parish Hall.

THE LEARNING COMMITTEE will meet Thursday, Nov. 5 at 6:30 pm in the Friendship room. Learning is not just for beginners. We learn at all ages and stages of our lives. Come help us meet these needs.

(Cont.) reach/Ministry. That is a lot for a part-time position, but one we feel that Janet can aptly handle. Janet has an excellent working relationship here with the staff and also has an excellent relationship with most of you from her many years of being an active member of this congregation. I feel we are at an important crossroads in our life as a congregation. We have had significant growth in our congregation since the difficult times of recent memory. One of those significant areas of growth has been the life of our youth group. They are very active today and are ably led by our new adult volunteer, Dawn Everson. Dawn's skills are and will be effective in keeping our youth program on a good trajectory for the near future. Other areas have grown where we see the need to assist myself and the leadership of this church in continuing to be a developing ministry in our community around us. Janet will provide that needed assistance. May you prayerfully consider this opportunity for our congregation and be present with us on Nov. 8th for its implementation. We need your input and your support.

May God bless us in our discernment. Pastor Steve

Our Savior Lutheran Church



Stewardship 2010
God is Seen, Love is Felt; *Lives are Changed.*

HOMBRES DINNER & MEETING: Thursday, November 12 at 6:30 pm in the home of Base Huston, 5412 N. 5th St, McAllen, 630-6306. Please sign up in the Narthex.

OUR SAVIOUR LUTHERAN CHURCH

Treasurer report Through Quarter 3 ,2009
January-September Period (9 Months)

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Plan</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Income	\$19,253	\$16,394	\$2,859
Expense	\$21,731	\$24,873	(\$3,142)

Income for September was greater than plan by \$2,859 which recovers the less than plan in August

The Year to date results follow

Income	\$214,255	\$214,891	(\$636)
Expense	\$221,061	\$225,309	(\$4,248)

Income thru September is 0.3% less than plan

Expense thru June is 1.9% less than plan

Income is now effectively equal to plan, thanks to all Expenses are well less than plan, good job my friends

Mortgage balance is now \$308,856

Gods Peace to you, Tom Riesterer, Treasurer



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PEN....

Hooray!!! We are so happy to see some of our friends return from the cold country. Each Sunday lately has brought us a few more returnees. It is so good to have you back. We ordered some cooler weather just so you would be comfortable when you get back. So those of you who are still dallying, it's time to head south. The Rio Grande Valley is calling.In case you haven't heard, our 4th Quarter Dime Ministry will be used to buy supplies for our prayer shawls. So, if you have been thinking about making one, this would be a good time to use your creative talents. The one I made had a pattern of three stitches. I found it an excellent way to knit prayers for healing and peace in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The added benefit was it gave me a real sense of peace as I did it. Ask Sue for some supplies so you can get started. Another thing I want to mention is the Special Congregational Meeting we are having this month to decide on calling Janet West as an Associate In Ministry (AIM) for a part time position at Our Savior. Besides assisting Pastor Steve in worship leadership and preaching, her duties will include leading our new 'Helping Hands' Ministry. This ministry will replace our old Pastor's Pantry ministry with the added features of nutritional instruction for mothers with young children, some meals, and spiritual guidance. Janet will be looking for volunteers to help with a variety of tasks to support these new programs. Talk to her about your special areas of interest.Our new mid-week adult Bible studies have been very successful. If you haven't tried working one into your schedule, I would really encourage you to do so. I promise you will be pleased and challenged to study further. Janet West is leading one study on Wednesday evenings and Pastor Steve is leading one on Thursday mornings. These are in addition to the adult Sunday School offerings. Don't miss out.Another thing - Where have all our singers gone???? We need more voices to sing God's praises and more bodies to fill the choir section. Practices have been moved to Sunday mornings so it will be easier for people to make them. If you like to sing we need you. Talk to Stacy or one of the choir members for more information.In closing I'd like you to finish this sentence, 'The kingdom of heaven is like...' I'll bet we could have a good discussion on your sentences. Think about it. With love and peace, Lynne

OSLC Dime Ministry: The dimes from the 4th quarter will be used to buy yarn for kits to make the Prayer Shawls. Save your dimes and bring them to church on the last Sunday of the month.

HELP WANTED: 2 Greeters are needed for each of the Christmas Services at 5:00 & 7:00 pm. Please call Vi Greenwald at 581-7675.

The November VISTA will be online only at www.swtsynod.org.

COUNCIL CLIPS FOR OCTOBER: 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 income year to date is only \$636.00 less than our budget. And, our actual expenses year to date are \$4248.00 less than we anticipated they would be. Pastor Steve presented twelve names to the council for membership. They will be received on November 1st. Our new paraments, donated by the Ortenstone family, will be dedicated on October 18th. Pastor Steve is planning a Thanksgiving service November 25th at 7:00. Janet West will lead our worship services on Sunday, November 29th. Pastor Mike Robinson, assistant to Bishop Tiemann, met with the Council to review the necessary procedures to call Janet West as an Associate In Ministry (AIM). A notice will be sent to all members for a Special Congregational meeting to be held November 8th. We will need a quorum to enact a call. The preliminary information for the 2010 budgets has been received from each committee and will be compiled. Our 4th Quarter Dime ministry will be donated to supplies for prayer shawls. Property committee reported repairs to the A/C unit in the Friendship room have been made. Our fountain has received a good cleaning and some pump/filter repairs. BAMB reported many hours have been spent this month along with the Hombres in cleanup of the grounds and general repairs to Comfort House in preparation for their 20th Anniversary. Education committee is pleased with the response to our additional adult Bible study offerings. We have 14 youth planning to attend the New Orleans reunion in Seguin. Fellowship and Education committees are continuing their planning for the combination LFC mortgage reduction BBQ and Trunk or Treat activity. There was no report from the Outreach committee. Other committee reports were for upcoming meetings and events that will be announced in the bulletin and on the church calendar. The next scheduled council meeting is November 10th.

Respectfully submitted, Lynne Watkins

BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Ann Gales
- 1 Dawn Garcia
- 2 Roger Burnham
- 3 Paul Delaney
- 3 Audrey Kalmoe
- 3 Susana Wadgymar
- 4 Kenneth Dreier
- 6 Merlin Juvrud
- 7 Stan Johannsen
- 7 Bruce Taylor
- 8 Joe Nelson
- 9 Morris Johnson
- 10 Macel Magnussen
- 14 Ralland Harrison
- 14 Randy Schuette
- 14 Tabatha Shourds
- 14 Linda Todd
- 16 Gene Nielsen
- 16 Gwen Preston
- 17 Marge Hanson
- 18 Barb Denman
- 18 Jim Offerdahl
- 18 Milam Smith
- 20 Rudy Losoya
- 21 Thomas Beasley
- 22 Audrey Drewes
- 22 Brianna Zavala
- 25 Bob Rainey
- 30 Austin Smith

November

ANNIVERSARIES

- 7 Tim & Jeanette Smith
- 8 John & Earline Dirickson
- 10 Michael & Cheyenne Zink
- 22 David & Sally Matson
- 23 John & Linda Fraser
- 26 Joe & Frances Knollmaier
- 28 Virgil & Marlene Fasse

**SERVICE OF HEALING
Thursday, November 19
6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary**

Have faith, believe healing will come and ask God to send His healing Spirit to us.

A Word of Thanks...

New green paraments have been donated to OSLC in memory of Ron Ortenstone by his family.



SHARING AND CARING

ON COMMUNION SUNDAYS we collect items for our outreach programs. On Nov. 1 please bring **CEREAL AND JELLO** and on Nov. 15 it's **OIL AND FLOUR**. You may leave them on the "Our Savior Cares" table in the Narthex. Thank you for your faithful support of this ministry. Big thanks to all who helped clean up at Comfort House!! **PIECEMAKERS** meet every Tuesday from 9:00am to 3:00pm. Bring your own lunch and join us for good fellowship as we make the quilts that warm the needy. Come when you can, leave when you must. **THE SHARING & CARING COMMITTEE** will meet Thursday, Nov. 5 at 6:30 pm in the Parish Hall. Join us!!



The Sharing and Caring Ministry is offering the books with coupons valued over \$2,500 for lots of valley businesses. They are \$10 each. Help support our many social ministries & save money, too!

The 2nd Annual "Giving Thanks Community Dinner" will be Saturday, November 21st from 1:30 – 3:30 PM at Calvary Baptist Church on 16th and Harvey. A complete meal will be shared with those in our neighborhood who are experiencing financial, emotional, and spiritual difficulties. You can help. Please speak with Kathy Herzberg for more information or to volunteer, 686-4364.

Funds raised benefit OSLC Music Ministry.



"RAZZMATAZZ CHRISTMAS" Dinner/Show

GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD!
OSLC Thanksgiving Worship
Wednesday, Nov. 25 at 7:00 p.m.



Community Interfaith Thanksgiving Service
Tuesday, November 24 at 7:00 p.m.
First Christian Church, 1400 N. 10th, McAllen

"Listening Hands Ministry"

Listening Hands will begin its ministry on Saturday, November 7th at 9:00 AM in the Parish Hall. We will be inviting our Hispanic neighbors and their pre-school children to come and have breakfast with us. We will gather information about each family to begin a data base of needs. After breakfast Yolanda Rios of the Hidalgo County Extension Service will present a program on food safety for the moms. We will meet again on November 14th and 21st and a last Saturday meeting on December 5th. Mrs. Rios will be present each Saturday to present a new topic about food, including how to buy, and prepare nutritious meals for their families. This will begin our interaction with the families so that we can learn about their needs and how the church can help them. After the initial program we will have a food pantry twice a month with emphasis on the proper foods for the children. As we develop relationships with the families our hope is that we will discover ways of helping them with other needs.

SAVE THIS DATE

It's hard to believe, but its time for **Advent!** Please join us after worship on Sunday, November 22, 2009. We will have a light lunch and then decorate the sanctuary for Advent. While the adults are getting the decorations out, the tree up and the greens hung, the kids will be doing an Advent activity. This year they will be putting together an Advent tree complete with stickers for each day of Advent as well as an Advent devotional booklet.

Then everyone together will decorate the tree. Please plan to join us as it is an exciting way to prepare for the season that welcomes our greatest Gift, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.



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

This newsletter was taken to the Post Office on October 22, 2009. Address service requested

DATED MATERIAL

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

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