

OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

Volume XXV, Issue 9

September 2010

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Our Savior Lutheran Church Living Faith Center

WORSHIP WITH US

Orientation/New Members	8:15 AM
Lutheran Basics Class	8:15 AM
Worship	9:30 AM
Sunday School Classes	9:30 AM
Praise Worship	11:00 AM

Communion is offered the 1st and 3rd Sundays of every month.

Helping Our Men Become Responsible Examples Spiritually

HOMBRES will begin meeting again the 3rd Thursday of each month on September 9 at 6:30 pm in the home of Jim Offerdahl, 410 Virgo, Mission, 956-581-6898. Please sign up in the Narthex. All men are welcome.

OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN STAFF

MINISTERS	ALL PEOPLE OF OSLC
PASTOR	STEVEN HERZBERG
ASSOCIATE IN MINISTRY	JANET WEST
OFFICE MANAGER	SUE WADGYMAR
CHOIR DIRECTOR	BARBARA McCLELLAN
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
SECRETARY	RAYNA DELANEY
BORDER MISSIONS	WENDY FOWLER
OUTREACH	LYNNE WATKINS
PUBLICITY	SANDY HUSTON
LEARNING & YOUTH	TERRI JENSEN
	KATHY SALINAS
PROPERTY	RALLAND HARRISON
	JIM OFFERDAHL
STEWARDSHIP	RAYNA DELANEY
WORSHIP & MUSIC	BETTY COOKSLEY

Pastor's Notes

Winter, Spring, Summer, and Fall – these are the four seasons of the year, although we don't necessarily experience them in their full flavor down here. Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, and Pentecost – these are the six seasons of the church year, and yes, we experience all of them in the Valley. September, December, April, and June – these are the four changes that we go through in our congregational rhythm each year. You may not think of them as such, but they are a reality for us.

In September, we kick off with two services, Sunday School, Confirmation Classes, regular Youth Group, Choirs, Adult Classes, and other programs.

In the months that follow, the numbers steadily grow. In December, we go to three services, the Gospel Jams, Polka Service, and Lute-fisk Dinner. It gets pretty full for the Winter Texan months until the last Sunday of March. In April, we usually have Easter Sunday, go back to two services, and the numbers go gradually down. In June, we go to one service, many of the classes go into recess, year-rounders begin to take vacations, youth go off to camps, VBE and SMAK happen, and in August, we get ready to start all over again. It is an unusual rhythm that is not experienced by a lot of congregations, but it is unique to us in the Valley. . . .

We're at that turning point again. The beginning of the September

cycle is upon us. May you find the niches which help to serve you in your congregational life and help you to serve others in your Christian life. We look forward to the change and pray that you would invite others in your surroundings to join you this year for our unique rhythm.

Pastor Steve, Home phone 956-631-0273

OSLC Dime Ministry: Bring your dimes on Sunday, Sept. 26. For the 3rd quarter 2010 the dimes will be used to support the Wednesday Jesus 'N Jeans ministry. Thank you.

OSLC FOOD MINISTRY: You may donate at any time toward boxes of food that we give to our needy families. Each box is \$30 and contains \$60-70 worth of groceries. Please note "Food Ministry" in the memo line. And thank you so much. We are currently helping 7 families make ends meet.

**REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS**

Healing: Kristi Allen (Janet Young's daughter), Lena Doering, Norm Frey, Carnie & Burnie Olson, Tim Smith, Joyce Tokkesdahl, Kelli Travers. **Shut-Ins:** Gwen Preston. **Family Members:** Gerri Craig (Linda Todd's mom), Vi Greenwald, Gordon Hutchinson, Doug Magnussen, Bob & Lorna Rainey, Branch Zuniga. **Friends of Congregation:** Eric Donaldson, Diana Fugh, Lois Fuhrmeister, Ted Hochenauer, Cassie Hovland, Rev. Richard Jensen (Mace Magnussen's cousin), Wyatt Anthony Kamp, Derek Keniston, Bill & Nola Lonsdorf, Debbie Martin, Bruce Moilan, Burnett Pearson, Janine Phillips, Roger Schnaible, Greg Shartle, Gloria Speck, John Stegall, Mike Taylor, Kelsey Tobola, Bob Wagg, Jon Young. **In military service:** Preston Atwood (grandson of Russ Sandry), Johnny Cannon, Tom Riesterer's grandson), 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 (Carol Todd's son), and David Westfall (grandson of Gwen Preston).

LOST Events:

Sunday, Sept. 5, 2nd Annual LOST Family Get-Together 5-7 Watch for sign up sheet for meal items Let's see who wins the volleyball game this year?!

Friday, Oct. 29th - Casting Crowns Concert at the State Farm Arena. Tickets are

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES begin again Sept. 5 at 9:30 a.m.

Adult Classes

ORIENTATION/NEW MEMBER CLASS: This class is designed for those who are interested in the life, work, and teachings of Our Savior Lutheran Church. It can lead to membership & will run for 7 weeks. Pastor Steve facilitates Sundays beginning Sept. 5 at 8:15am.

LUTHERAN BASICS: Come learn about Martin & Katie Luther and our church. Janet will lead beginning Sept. 5 at 8:15 a.m.

CONFIRMATION CLASS: Returning & new students (Grades 6-8) will begin classes on Wednesday, Sept. 1, at 5:30 p.m.

DOWN & OUT: Where Grace Takes You: Grace takes us out into God's world, confident in God's promises. Join Janet for this 6 part series Wednesdays beginning Sept. 1 at 6:30 p.m.

THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY: We'll begin at 10:00am on Sept. 16. The subject will be announced later, but Pastor Steve will be at the helm.

Council Clips for August:

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. Our treasurer, Tom Riesterer reported that our year-to-date income and expenses are about 4% below plan. Therefore our cash flow remains close to plan, thanks to lower spending. Pastor Steve reported that our average attendance in July was lower than the previous two years. RGV Conference meeting in Mission will be September 25 and is open to our congregational members. Janet West expanded her ministry in July by officiating at a communion service at St. John's in Pharr and conducted a graveside service while Pastor was on vacation. In September Janet will be doing a new Bible Study and she will be on vacation Sept. 17 – 29th. Motion passed to have Carl Teinert, chair of the SW Texas synod council speak at services on January 16, 2011. Motion passed to have Bruce Taylor give a Thrivent presentation on "What is Identity Theft" at OSL in early October. Motion passed to contract the repairs of the Living Faith Center in raising the floors and placing 8 pilings along the foundation. This will be paid with funds from a recent bequest, if the insurance does not pay in full. The next regularly scheduled council meeting is September 14 at 6:30 pm.

Jottings from Janet

I pray that everyone has had a blessed, restful, and happy summer. As for me it has been great! I loved being here to participate in VBE and the SMAK program this year. It was so much fun to work with the kids and to watch them grow and blossom. It is time now for a return to our fall activities and I am particularly excited about our Adult education programs. I will be teaching Adult Sunday school at 8:15 with a course called Lutheran basics. I have watched the whole video and it will be great to be able to study this topic. We will learn about Martin Luther, his wife Catherine, J.S. Bach, Lutheran Roots in North America, and the History of the ELCA. Please join us for this in depth look at our church. In addition on Wednesday nights at 6:30 PM my Bible Study group will study a wonderful video called Down and Out: Where Grace Takes You. A great explanation of how God came down, ALL the way down, and what our response to His loving act should and must be. Join us! Our Listening Hands group continues with breakfast and the food pantry on the 4th Saturday of the month. We are working to establish our English class for 2 Saturdays a month at 10:00 AM, followed by a Spanish Bible Study. Healing service for September will be a communion service with laying on of hands and anointing. This service is for anyone who is struggling with a problem, whether it is health related, job related, or relationship related, this service is for YOU! All of us need healing at some point in our lives and what better place to get help with that healing there here in your community of faith. God is surely present every time we meet. A reminder that anyone who would like to come and talk with me I am at your service. Working with our people, or any people is a very important part of what God has called me to do in this place. May the coming fall season bring new life and many blessings to you all. In His name, Janet



“Esther-Ordinary Faith”

Thank you for the years (4!) of support, love, patience and prayer as we continue to minister to families and children within the community. Below are comments from 2 of our graduating participants.



BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Nicole Watson
- 4 Elayne Nelson
- 8 Michael Day
- 8 Michael Zink
- 13 John Dirickson
- 14 Duane Buenzow
- 14 Perry Ellefson
- 14 Cheyanne Zink
- 15 Karen Dreier
- 18 Dick Wells
- 19 Delroy Neubauer
- 19 Bob Thompto
- 20 Seth Reyes
- 22 Christina Ruiz
- 23 Kathy Herzberg
- 23 Gus Kolb
- 23 Sam Milligan
- 25 Janet West
- 28 Maxine Blanchard
- 28 Judy Peterson
- 29 Mila Kolb
- 29 Lorna Rainey

September

ANNIVERSARIES

- 16 Tom & Yolanda Riesterer
- 22 Darold & Sharon Walker

To my fellow cast and to the staff,

I want to thank you for making my last year such a blast. My first year I started as Mr. Bing Solomon, year two I was the blond-haired Hans Bronson, last year I was the hip hoppin' DJ Stan the Man, and this final year I was Haman. Throughout these years I have made so many new friends and connected to so many people.

Even though you may think this is my last year it is not because I plan on being a part of staff next year and the next and so on for as long as I possibly can. I want to thank everyone who has taken part in these performances at SMAK and the staff that has helped with crafts, recreation, the kitchen, and drivers. I especially want to thank Ms. Linda and Ms. Carolanne for the wonderful and joyous years they have provided for me and making me part of their church and SMAK family. I also want to thank Miss Dawn for inviting me the first year because if it wasn't for her I wouldn't have attended SMAK because I would not have known about it.

Finally, I want to thank all of you who came to support us in our hard work we put into this performance, I hoped you would enjoy it and have a wonderful evening. Jared

And from one of the parents: “My children loved SMAK. It was great for my kids to have activities each day. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! This is a great, fantastic ministry!!”

There is no heading because I don't know what to put...I really hope that when Jared and I leave SMAK it will be on a happy note rather than on a sad one. I hope that SMAK will continue to enlighten hearts with its charming and witty ways to show faith. I know that I have been changed because of SMAK. It has taught me about God and about myself in the greatest ways possible.

SMAK has had such a great impact on my life, I have met people I know I will have for the rest of my life. Because of SAMK I feel ready to go into high school fearless and ready to meet new people. I hope that for the rest of its years, SMAK will keep it's wonderful morals and keep everyone intertwined as friends and as a family. I know that SMAK will always have a grip on my heart. I love SMAK and everyone in it. It has pointed me in the direction I know I want to be on. SMAK has put me on the path that I've spent my life striving to get on.

I know those of you who really know me are probably thinking that I'm really not the person who will write pages and pages of sappy repetitive notes. I haven't changed since yesterday so I'm going to say what I want to say which is: SMAK is perfect the way it is, I hope it never changes and that as long as there's faith SMAK is there to spread the word of our extraordinary faith. Love always, Jaci

SHARING AND CARING

Every Communion Sunday we collect food for distribution to our neighbors in need. This month the items are **September 5: CANNED MEATS, and September 19: PINTO BEANS & RICE.** Your help and support are greatly appreciated. Our Sharing & Caring people have purchased additional food items besides the ones brought by all of you, and school supplies for Cristo Rey Lutheran Church to distribute, along with much-needed mosquito spray. The folks in Colonia 21 de Marzo in Reynosa have had their homes flooded by all the water released from the dams (at left is the old clinic/worship building).

The 3 houses that our men built for families there are on higher ground, so they are ok, and the church/school building (shown at right with some of the supplies Pastor Steve & Pastor Alma took to them) is also dry, so families are staying there. The river level is going down slowly (these pictures were taken 2 weeks ago), but normal is a way off yet.



PIECEMAKERS Though we've had a small crew during the summer, we continued working, so our supplies are low. We could use sheets or cotton or poly-cotton fabric, if you find a sale or thrift store. We'll continue to meet on Tuesdays from 9:00am to 11:30am for now and look forward to gearing up as our fellow quilters get back.

Help warm hearts and touch lives with Thrivent ChoiceSM

If you are a member of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, you have a new, easy way to help support what matters most to you. Through Thrivent ChoiceSM, a new charitable grant program, you can help choose where Thrivent Financial distributes some of its charitable funds each year. The program has two components: Voting Events and Choice DollarsSM. Through Voting Events, all members age 16 and older can vote to help choose where Thrivent Financial distributes funds among a short list of national organizations. Voting Events occur one or two times each year. Eligible benefit members also are designated Choice Dollars. By directing Choice Dollars, they can request funding for thousands of Lutheran organizations nationwide, including congregations in their chapter. Potential designated Choice Dollars amounts that can be directed range from \$25 to \$500 for each eligible member. If you are eligible to direct Choice Dollars, you can direct them *right now*. If you are uncertain about your eligibility, visit Thrivent.com/thriventchoice, or contact your local Thrivent Financial representative. Directing Choice Dollars and voting in Voting Events are subject to the Terms and Conditions of the Thrivent Choice Program. Visit Thrivent.com/thriventchoice for complete Terms and Conditions.

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

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

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SEPTEMBER 2010

OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN
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