

OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

Volume XXIV, Issue 9

September 2009

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Our Savior Lutheran Church Living Faith Center

WORSHIP WITH US
Worship 9:30 AM
Adult Class 10:45 AM

Beginning Sunday, Sept. 13
Traditional Worship 9:30 AM
Sunday School Classes 9:30 AM
Contemporary Worship 11:00 AM

A Note of Thanks... Dear Pastor Steve and Our Savior members, Thank you so much for all of your prayers, visits, cards, phone calls, and the wonderful prayer shawl that you gave me when I was recovering from a toe infection and then allergies and several skin cancer removals. It's so good to be back at church and see everyone and be able to drive again. Sincerely yours, Phyllis Shartle

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 as we kick off the Fall Schedule once again. Please keep your eyes and ears open for the various programs that renew those efforts again in making God's Kingdom accessible to our community. Rally Sunday will be the date to begin those changes. . . . Looking back, it was quite a summer of activity for our youth and children. Thank you for the tremendous outpouring of resources that were provided to allow those projects to go forward. God has blessed us. . . . We lost two members recently to death -- Robert Preston and Ron Ortenstone. We pray for their spouses, family members, and friends. I personally enjoyed the company of both of

them for all the years of my time here. . . . One new program of interest will be the revamping of our Kid's Club (for elementary children) to being a monthly family/congregational event of fellowship and fun. Watch for the announcements on its first event. . . . Janet West will begin her work with the congregation this month. We have contracted her to be with us 20 hours/week until the end of this year. Discussions will need to take place on the congregational level as to the possibility of calling her as an official AIM (Associate in Ministry), a rostered position in the ELCA. It is our desire to explore that process as soon as reasonably appropriate. We are waiting to hear from the Southwestern Texas Synod as to the steps we need to

go through, and then meet with all of you to flesh it all out. May we be guided by God's Spirit as we discuss those decisions for the future. . . . We pray God's blessings on our congregation and community in the school year ahead. It will be a busy and productive time. May you participate to the fullest in all the ministries that are offered.

Pastor Steve (home phone 956-631-0273)

A new orientation/new member class will be offered starting on Sept. 13th at 8:15am in the pastor's office. The class will run for six consecutive weeks, and can lead to church membership or serve as information gathering. It will cover the topics of Purposes of a church; ministries/programs of this congregation; the larger ELCA; Lutheran History and Teachings; Worship and Calendar Year; and Expectations of Disciples. Questions and/or interest in the class should be directed to Pastor Steve.

**REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS**

Healing: Virgil Mullins, Tim Smith, Branch Zuniga. **Shut-Ins:** Mary Ann Hadan, Gwen Preston. **Family Members:** Bob Bitner, Gerri Craig (Linda Todd's mom), Norm Frey, Joan Ortenstone, Lorraine Petersen, Bob & Lorna Rainey, Kelli Travers. **Friends of Congregation:** Ashton Arizpe, Ray & Joyce Barnhart (friends of Diana Clark), Tim Harrison (son of Ralland & Lois), Hope, Cassie Hovland, Sally Houston, Wyatt Anthony Kamp, Arlene & Jonathan Luna, Debbie Martin, Karen Montzka (Virg & Rose Mullins' daughter), Joe Parenio (cousin of Salinas'), Rubye Samilton, Patty Schneider, Midori Schnose, Lucy Snearly, Ed & Gloria Speck, Gene Steuven, Mike Taylor, Jon Young. **In military service:** Anthony Carter (frined 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), Marcus Rodriguez (friend of Sheryl Carriere); 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).

Learning and Youth

Our committee will be putting a bigger emphasis on the Education of all ages in our church starting on Rally Sunday. We think it is important to continue to have opening at the beginning of our youth/children's Sunday school classes. So starting on Rally Sunday (Sept. 13th) we will have the youth/children's Sunday school classes from 9:15-10:30. This will give us 10-15 minutes for opening, where all the youth and children have time to be together and still give us enough time in the classrooms.

We have also begun a discussion about having services at 8:00 and 11:00 when we only have 2 services so that the 9:15-10:30 time could be the education hour for our whole church.(Of course when we add a 3rd service it would be during that education hour.) Please let us know your thoughts on this "education hour" idea as we will continue to discuss it in our upcoming meetings. If you are interested in joining us, we meet the first Thursday of the month at 6:30! All are welcome!

Rally Day, Sunday, Sept. 13

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES begin a new year on the 13th at 9:15 am.

"A LINEAGE OF GRACE": This adult class will meet at 10:45am in Classroom C on Sept. 6. We'll decide on our continuing schedule then.

CONFIRMATION CLASS for new and returning students will begin on Wednesday, Sept. 16th, from 5:30pm until 6:30pm in the choir room. This is a two-year course for those as early as 6th grade. It covers study of Luther's Small Catechism, the Bible, and other related topics. If you haven't talked to the pastor yet about your child's interest in the class, please do so promptly. There is no cost for the course which runs jointly with the public school schedule.

A PERSONAL NOTE FROM THE CO-DIRECTORS of Music Camp:

For 3 years, Our Savior Lutheran Church family has supported this program in whatever was needed. Year 1 we started with 6 workers and just a dream of bringing kids of all denominations together for a 2 week fun musical camp. Year 2 we found a need and Our Savior family came through with extra snacks to help kids who weren't eating lunch before coming to camp. Here at year 3 we filled the need for food by contracting with McAllen ISD Child Nutrition Services for lunch but a new need was found. Some families, hit hard by the economic situation, didn't have bathing suits for their children to be able to swim with us. Staff agonized because we don't ever want a child left out of an activity so we once again asked Our Savior family to help. To date, between Our Savior and SMAK families we have received many bathing suits of all sizes. All of this in addition to helping with scholarships for families who couldn't afford camp. This year, you sponsored 12 students through SMAK. As your co-directors, we started with the idea: if the children work hard, they should play hard too so we began looking for outside places to go. For 3 years we have gone swimming at Municipal Pool, eaten pizza at Mr. Gatti's (who always have a private room for us), and gone bowling at Flamingo Bowl (who are always accommodating with what we need). As we look towards our 4th year, we are looking into new avenues for outside activities and still stay within the budget we have set. In other words: not raise the fee! Be on the lookout for some changes next year. Thank you for the years of support, love, patience and prayer as we continue to minister to families and children within the community. Your SMAK staff has truly shown a servants heart and genuine love towards all children who come through the program. It is our plea you continue to support this outreach program. Who knows what seed is planted in the hearts of these children during their time at SMAK? *Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Luke 18:16* Do you have a child's heart? Pray God will continue to bless, guide and direct our efforts as we begin planning for next year. Where will we go and who will we meet next summer? At this point, only God knows. Look for notices in December announcing our "SMAK Reunion." This is when we all get back together, reminisce about the previous summer and announce the new musical. The reunion is a dinner for children and parents, so keep watching your e-mail and snail mail. God bless our church family for their support and the children's families for seeing that they attended camp. General recommendations for 2010: better communication with parents; re-evaluate need for lunches; schedule SMAK during first 2 full weeks in August again, but from 1:00pm-5:30pm; improve getting assigned children to drivers; playground supervision schedule; keep rest period before performance; change time of performance to 7:30 due to sunset issues or cover window; lighting needs improvement; need for a monitor for the stage so performers can hear music. Funding: Budgeted \$650; Synod grant \$1000; Food donations \$301; Registrations \$1200; Scholarships \$690; general donations \$90; Performance offering \$244; previous balance \$90; totaling \$4,265. Expenses: "Promise U" promo pack & supplies \$394; Props & staging \$427; Sound equipment \$1002; food \$240; Crafts \$86; t-shirts \$407; certificates & supplies \$79; sports \$24; Activities: swimming (twice) \$152; Mr. Gatti's party \$289; bowling \$162; totaling \$3,262. Total hours donated by volunteers: 754.5. If we paid these good people by the hour at minimum wage, it would have cost us \$5,470!



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PEN....

A song comes to mind as I write this.....'Back in the saddle again'. Summer is over and Fall is beginning with fervor. Let's bring this excitement to Our Savior as we begin our Fall programs. Our God is here and waiting to be praised in song, word and deed as He continues to bless us again and again. As we consider our many blessings, we are aware of those who are suffering or grieving or experiencing other difficulties in their lives and we pray they will feel God's presence and be at peace. We hear and read so much about the economy and how it is affecting people. It affects churches and organizations that are providing support to all of us, too. At Our Savior we are trying to be very frugal in our spending and, it shows in the fact that our spending to date has not exceeded our income. However, if our income continues to drop we will certainly have to reassess our budget. Our members and associates that have pledged and/or tithe regularly have been able to meet those commitments so far. For this, your Council thanks you very much. Our biggest drop in income has occurred from those who neither pledge nor tithe regularly or are considered visitors. If you are one of those, please know that we need your support too. Another organization that is feeling the economic pinch is Comfort House. A letter we received requesting funds is included with this newsletter. They will get some support from us in cleaning products from our 3rd Quarter dime ministry. If you are led to send them a monetary donation, you may do it directly or mark your check for Comfort House and we will forward it to them. I have heard a lot of talk reminding us to be prepared in case a hurricane should come. I wonder if we give enough thought and preparation for something definitely coming. Our Lord IS coming. When He comes, will you be prepared? Are you so busy with earthly tasks that you won't be ready? Take the time to get yourself ready for our Lord. Read His Word, pray, and open your heart and mind to His instruction. Be renewed and be prepared.

With love and peace, Lynne

BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Nicole Watson
- 4 Elayne Nelson
- 5 Cassidy Newmann
- 8 Michael Day
- 8 Michael Zink
- 13 John Dirickson
- 14 Duane Buenzow
- 14 Perry Ellefson
- 14 Eileen Schuette
- 14 Cheyanne Zink
- 15 David Cornelius
- 15 Paige Niittula
- 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
- 27 John Beaty
- 28 Maxine Blanchard
- 28 Judith Peterson
- 29 Mila Kolb

OSLC Dime Ministry:

The dimes from the 3rd quarter will go to Comfort House, a non-profit hospice for those with terminal illnesses (see letter, page 4). The funds will be used for much needed supplies. Save your dimes and bring them to church on the last Sunday of every month. God bless you all.

OUTREACH

to our sisters in Costa Rica has come to a close with both Pastor Stephanie Quick and Krystal Overmyer completing their assignments and have now returned back to the states. They were not replaced. As this is our sister synod our committee felt strongly that we should continue to look for ways to support that synod's work in Costa Rica rather than another missionary in Japan or elsewhere. We will continue to look for ways to support that ministry and when opportunities arise we well bring those forward for your vote of support. If you have any suggestions contact one of the Outreach committee members. Thanks for your past support: Bruce Taylor and Wendy Fowler, Outreach Committee.



ANNIVERSARIES

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

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 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 July income was about \$3,600.00 less than our July expenses. However, our year to date income is still more than our expenses due to our conservative spending. We welcomed Terri Jensen who has agreed to fill our vacant Council position. Pastor Steve reported he has agreed to mentor the newly called Grace Lutheran pastor, Ryan Pederson. We have received the funds from the Synod Conference offering. As our ESL program is no longer available, we are exploring alternative uses for these funds that fit the guidelines set out by the Synod. And, we will be updating our membership roster this month. The Council discussed the contract needed to hire Janet West for the month of October. A job description for her position has been created. Sandy Huston reported on the Board meeting she attended for Cross Trails Ministry. She suggested our Conference consider sponsoring a Cross Trails 'Day Camp' program next summer. Property committee reported the need to repair the south end of the Narthex. Bids are being gathered to repair the leak in the Sanctuary roof. An exterminator has removed the carpenter bees from the east end of the office building. Education committee would like to make education for all a priority for the upcoming year. Sunday School will be from 9:15 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. with the first 15 minutes for a combined opening. We discussed the possibility of having to amend our Constitution if any mandatory changes are voted on at the National Assembly meeting. 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 September 8th. Respectfully submitted, Lynne Watkins

WORK DAY SEPTEMBER 12

Bring your gear Saturday, the 12th, and help clean for Rally Day. We'll get started at 9:00 a.m.

OSLC Member inducted into Wisconsin Amateur Softball Association Hall of Fame:

Harold (Hal) Case was inducted into the WASA Hall of Fame as an umpire this past July 25 in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin. After many years of calling softball games in both Wisconsin and Texas, Hal continues to call games here in the Valley. We are very proud of him and wish him many more years of active participation in the various leagues around here.

SHARING AND CARING

ON COMMUNION SUNDAYS we collect items for our outreach programs. On Sept. 6 please bring **PEANUT BETTER OR CANNED MEAT** and on Sept. 20 it's **POWDERED OR CANNED MILK**. You may leave them on the "Our Savior Cares" table in the Narthex. The committee will meet again in October. Thank you for your faithful support of this ministry.

L.O.S.T. MESSAGE

Hi guys! I'm very excited about starting to work with the Jr. and Sr. High youth group! It's a new beginning and I pray it will be a great year for everyone! It's been fun getting to know some of you in Sunday School, and going to Christian concerts and on the New Orleans trip this summer! I look forward to getting to know all of you better this year! I also enjoyed working with the youth that took a leadership role this summer by volunteering to help to make our VBE and SMAK so successful for our younger youth! You are a great group of young adults and I am honored to be part of this group! I hope everyone will come to our Rally Day Kick off get-together for you and your parents on Sept. 13th. We will start planning activities after the kick off! However, you may have already heard from those of us that went to New Orleans that we will be planning a trip to Seguin on Oct. 24th for the Jesus, Justice, Jazz Tour!! Watch for more details! Again, I can't tell you how excited I am about this new adventure with you! I pray that God will bless all of us and our time together!
Dawn

Angel Food Ministry Orders are due by Sept. 13, with food box pick up on Sept. 26. See Les & Lynne Watkins to donate or to order a box. Thank you!

TOWN HALL MEETING

You are cordially invited to attend our upcoming Economic Update, hosted by Roger Stevenson, Bruce Taylor and Charlene Kuprel.

Wednesday, September 23, 2009

6:30 – 7:30 PM in the Sanctuary.

Marvin Allensworth, Managing Partner of Texas For Thrivent Financial for Lutherans will be our guest presenter. Questions are welcome. This Economic Update and Market Outlook workshop will cover: Updates on important economic and investment news. Strategies for coping with current market and economic conditions. Perspectives on the market and suggested actions. Seating is limited. To reserve a place for yourself and guest, please call / register at 956-630-4260.

Letter from Comfort House:

Dear Pastor Steve & Congregation: Comfort House is 20 years old this year! We are excited to have been able to care for over 1,500 persons from McAllen and the entire Rio Grande Valley and surrounding areas. Our beloved Founder, Sr. Mary Strohmeier, RSM, in 1989, provided our area with this very unique, necessary facility to McAllen and the entire Rio Grande Valley. It has been a long struggle to survive all these years on a donation-basis only and relying on the support of the community that we serve; yet, it has been an honor and a privilege to be able to assist the dying and the families that have needed us. With the present unstable economic situation, I am personally appealing to you for financial assistance to be able to continue the critical services that are so desperately needed. A monetary donation, perhaps a second collection, would be deeply appreciated. Won't you help us? Realizing that there are numerous good causes and many needs, especially in our area, we feel that dying is part of our Life Cycle and must be addressed as a moral and Christian duty of any civilized society. We provide, at no charge, compassionate, palliative, 24-hour care to any person with a prognosis of 4 or less months to live. We follow hospice protocol under a physician's care at all times to ensure that no person at Comfort House dies in pain and that no person ever dies alone. Thank you for all that you already do for your community! And, thank you for your consideration to this request.

Blessings, Mary Botello, Administrator
956-687-7367

(Flyers with info on Comfort House are in the Narthex.)

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

This newsletter was taken to the Post Office on August 20, 2009.
Address service requested

DATED MATERIAL

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

September 2009

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