

March 2015

WHAT WONDEROUS LOVE IS THIS!

"God so loved the world, that he gave his only son." John 3:16

In the movie, *Bruce Almighty*, Bruce asks God an insightful question, "How can you make someone love you without messing around with free will?" And God smiles at Bruce and says simply, "Welcome to my world."

We might like it if God would mess around with free will a bit. If God would just take charge, and make us do what we're suppose to do – if God would take control of our will, and make us love our enemies, make us forgive when we have been hurt, make us always do the loving thing so that there won't be all those hurts to forgive in the first place, make us care for all god's creatures – for the earth, and everything that is in it. I mean, God could make the kingdom of heaven happen – here on earth; if only God would use the almighty power God has, and just make us do what we're suppose to do.

But that's not the way God works. Instead, God loves us, and God just keeps on loving us. The only power God finally uses to get us to do what we are suppose to do in this world, is through the power of love. There are all sorts of people who have given up on the whole business of God; because the only picture they have of God is a God in control. Almighty God we say. So we believe that God can make anything happen if God chooses. And when God doesn't intervene and stop someone we love from dying, or when it seems that God has intervened for someone else, where does that put us? We start to think that God doesn't care about us, or that we have not proved ourselves deserving of God's goodness, or that God is just mean and out to hurt us.

But the thing is, God has chosen to deal with us human creatures, in ways that are far different from the way God deals with molecules, or rivers, or flowers, or planets, or insects, or bacteria, or antelope. Human beings have the amazing capacity to reflect upon their choices and choose freely as no

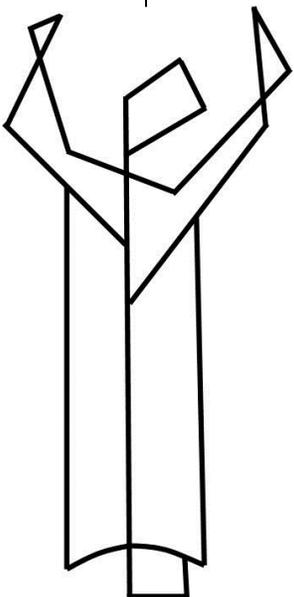
other creature can. Perhaps this is the way we live out the image of our creator. Free will seems to be an important gift that God has given us, and God simply refuses mess with it.

Except through the power of love.

That is the message that Jesus keeps trying to get across to his followers. God is love, and God's love keeps getting poured out for us, and God's patience over our poor choices never runs out. You cannot make someone love you. Not even God can make us love God in return. Love cannot be forced or manipulated. Love has to be given freely, or it is not love. That is the reality of God's world. The only way for God to get us to love God (or God's creation or the people around us that God has made), is for God to just love us, without any conditions, without any manipulation. Jesus calls us his friends, and he loves unto death – his own death. His disciples abandon him; the Jewish leaders and the crowds reject him; the power and authority of government condemns him. Yet all the while Jesus lives out God's abundant love – forgiveness, compassion, and a refusal to use power to force anyone to submit to God's will. The only power God uses is the power of love. We are free to abandon, to reject, and to condemn God's way of love. But somehow, when the truth finally dawns on us, that the one we have abandoned, rejected, and condemned, is the All-Loving God who will keep on dying, out of love for us; then the power of love works its work on us, and we are drawn to freely chose love. To freely choose an All-loving rather than an All-powerful God, and to begin the journey with Jesus, of loving God and letting the love of God flow through our lives. And when that happens – the kingdom of God comes alive among us.

And the good news for us is that God's love is finally all-powerful, and because of it we will freely choose to love.

Pastor Loren Anderson-Bauer



BY GOD'S MERCY...

"Therefore, since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart." – 2 Corinthians 4:1



The season of Lent provides us with a wonderful opportunity to spend some intentional time exploring the mercy and love of God...wholly incarnated in the person of Jesus Christ who gave his life for us – that we might have life. It really is amazing! No matter where life's paths may have taken us or detoured us, the invitation to return is always there. Always waiting. Always welcoming. Always offering forgiveness and a fresh new start.

This year's Wednesday evening Lenten services (@ 6:15 pm) will assist us in exploring that love and mercy found in the gift of baptism. The theme is entitled, *"Living Our Baptism: Walk Across the Water."* Each week focuses on one of the five questions asked of those making public affirmation of baptism. *"You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism: to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?"* The assembly makes affirmation: **I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.**

"People of God, do you promise to support and pray for one another in your life in Christ?" We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

It is by God's mercy that we are claimed as beloved sons and daughters in the waters of baptism. It is by God's mercy that we are united as brothers and sisters in Christ. It is by God's mercy that we are engaged together in ministry. So in this interim time of transition, let us not lose heart – for it is indeed by God's mercy that we continue to move forward in the name of Christ, offering a welcome place for the broken, the hurting, all in need of experiencing God's forgiveness, hope and love. If you have been gone from worship for a time, now is a great time to return. You've been missed! For those of you who are newly come, we are so excited to have you here!

How is it with your life this Lenten season? Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism?

We have promised to support and pray for one another in our life in Christ.

May God help and guide us,

Brenda Tibbetts, AiM

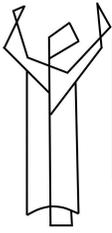
+ THANK YOU & GOD BLESS YOU!
On behalf of my son, my brother and our entire family, thank you so much for your prayers, cards and words of support and encouragement. We were able to all be together at Methodist Hospital/Mayo Clinic in Rochester for the Feb. 13 surgery. Our son Than is doing amazingly well post-kidney donation. My brother Todd is coming along. We have been excited to see the changes in his coloring, physical progress and most importantly, the gift of hope and life!

+ OUR SAVIOR'S PRAYER VIGIL is open to all every second Tuesday of the month from 9:00 am – 6:00 pm. Experience the power of prayer!

+ LIFE-LONG LEARNING @ LUTHER SEMINARY March 9-10 Topics are: *"A People for God's Name: Believing and Belonging in Luke and Acts"* w/Eric Barreto and *"Jeremiah: Judgment, Trauma and Hope"* w/Michael Chan. Tuition is \$70 + housing/meals. So far there are eight high school youth and several adults from Our Savior's signed up! Interested in joining the carpool? See AiM Brenda or DYFM Meagan for more information.

+ FAITH MATTERS CONFIRMATION STUDENTS & FAMILIES: Attendance at Wednesday Lenten services from 6:15-7:00 pm is required for all confirmands offering great opportunities to catch up with sermon notes and service participation. (*Worship service is in lieu of class.*)

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES: *Sundays* at 9:30 – live and on KBRT 1340; Cable Channel 5 Fri.-Sun. 6:30 pm + Sermons are posted on the website: www.oslcmn.com
Wednesdays @ 6:15 pm w/Soup Suppers from 5-6 pm on 2/25- 3/25.



YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRY

Acting in Love • Building Relationships • Following Jesus

March 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

- March 1—Intergenerational Sunday School—"Handcrafted Crosses"
- March 9-10—Luther Seminary Visit Grades 9-12
- March 20-21st – Elementary Rejuve Overnight Retreat at Camp Vermilion Grades 3-6
- March 29 - Palm Sunday—Muffin and Fruit Buffet following Worship

LOOKING AHEAD . . .

- Wednesday, April 1—No Faith Finders or Confirmation (Enjoy your Spring Break!)
- April 5—Easter Pancake Breakfast
- April 19—"Wood for the Ark" OSLC Dinner/Talent Show/Silent Auction

Dear friends,

One of my favorite memories from church growing up is of Lenten Soup Suppers. I loved forming the giant circle before dinner and listening to the whole congregation sing the Doxology for grace. Later on tour with the Luther College Concert Band I was amazed that the band, too, would sing the same table grace before each meal together. Gathered in school cafeterias or in giant church fellowship halls, we would link hands and sing "Praise God from whom all blessings flow...". I thought it was wonderful that so many college students from so many different places would know the same song, that our Lutheran traditions would link us in such a beautiful and musical way.

Whether it is in music or the language of the liturgy or our interactions with each other, kids learn and soak up everything going on around them. Church is one of the few places where children have the opportunity to gather and interact with people of so many different generations. How wonderful that we can celebrate these traditions together and learn from each other. The best way to talk about God's love, after all, is to share it.

Thank you to all the volunteers who share their love and patience with the young people who come to our church each week. Thank you for listening, guiding, and supporting them through donations of food, craft supplies, and creative ideas. I look forward to sharing soup with you all in the coming weeks!

with joy,
Meagan Esterby
Director of Youth and Family Ministry
meagan@oslcmn.com • 218.410.4704



SUNDAY MORNINGS

9:30 Worship
10:30 Bible Quest (Age 3-Grade 5)
Join us for music, a snack, story time, and great activities as we dive into the Bible together!

WEDNESDAYS AFTER SCHOOL

3:10-5:00 Faith Finders (K-Grade 5)
Join us for a snack, music and story time, and great activities as we explore faith and have lots of fun!

5:00-6:00 Supper (All are welcome!)
We are seeking volunteers to help prepare, cook, and serve!

6:15 Worship (All are welcome!)
6:50-7:45 Faith Matters (Confirmation, Grades 6-10)

Rooted in Faith • Growing in Christ • Reaching to Serve

Football, Food, & Fun

From the "Souper Bowl of Caring" to tubing at Giant's Ridge, we had so much fun this month! At the "Souper Bowl of Caring" we raised \$217.82 for the Quad Cities Food Shelf.

A few weeks later the Confirmation class continued the theme by volunteering at the Salvation Army, packing up more than 40 food boxes for hungry families. In Faith Finders we practiced throwing with Mrs. Witty and decorated cookies with Mrs. Rent, and in Bible Quest we had a great time one Sunday afternoon tubing at Giant's Ridge. Such fun!



Voyageurs Lutheran Ministry

...In God's Great Northwoods!

Register Today!

Summer is coming and we want to see you at Camp Hiawatha or Camp Vermilion! Invite a friend and register today for the best part of your summer vacation - a week of learning, meeting new friends, swimming, playing, singing around the campfire, and praising God.

Early Bird Deadline

Have you registered for Summer Camp yet? Don't wait too much longer because the price of camp increases after April 1! Information on how to register, camp fees, and program details can be found on our website - www.VLMcamps.org - or by contacting the camp office.

Thrivent Choice Dollars

Are you a Thrivent member? Then you may have Choice Dollars to direct! The Thrivent Choice® program lets eligible members recommend where some of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans' charitable outreach funds go by directing Choice Dollars®. VLM is one of thousands of non-profits who benefit from this Thrivent program.

How to direct your Choice Dollars to VLM:

- Go to www.Thrivent.com/ThriventChoice
 - Log In
 - Search for "Voyageurs Lutheran Ministry"
 - Direct your dollars to benefit programs at Camp Hiawatha and Camp Vermilion!
- You can also call 800-THRIVENT and say "Thrivent Choice" when prompted.*

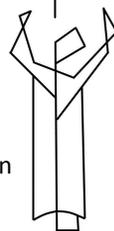
Not a member? Visit Thrivent.com to learn how to get involved!

www.VLMcamps.org • vlm@VLMcamps.org • 800-331-5148 • 218-666-5465



Camp Hiawatha, 36944 Camp Hiawatha Rd., Deer River, MN

Camp Vermilion, 2555 Vermilion Camp Rd., Cook, MN



BROADCASTS

March 1, 2015

OPEN

March 8, 2015

OPEN

March 15, 2015

OPEN

March 22, 2015

OPEN

March 29, 2015

OPEN



Statistics for February

<u>February</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
1	126
4	14
8	101
11	15
15	89
18 (Ash Wed)	110
22	74

There is a sign-up sheet for radio broadcasts on the bulletin board in the hallway.

The cost of a broadcast is now \$85. The church pays \$85 per week for the broadcast. Fill in the sponsorship sign-up and give a check to the church earmarked for Radio Broadcast.

Our church service is broadcast on **KRBT 1340 Am** on Sunday mornings at 9:30 am.

Thank you and may God bless this important ministry. For those who have cable TV, you can watch the service on channel 5. **If you are home bound and would like to receive a Sunday bulletin so you can follow along, please contact the church office.**

Correspondence

Thank you from Shelley Wickstrom, Bishop for our gift of \$284.67 to the Alaska Synod in Teller Brevig.

JOIN US

Rooted in Faith † Growing in Christ † Reaching to Serve

Sunday Worship Schedule

9:30 am Worship

10:30 am Coffee & Bible Quest

Mondays

9 am Text Study

10 am Bible Study

Wednesdays

3-5 pm Faith Finders (Grades K-5)

5:15pm Choir

5-6 pm Supper

6:15 pm Worship

6:50 pm Confirmation

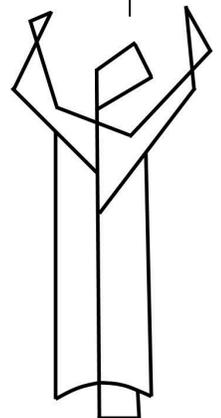
WELCA News

Women's board will meet on Sunday, March 8 at 10:30 am. The circles will on Tuesday, March 17 at the church.

The Laurentian Spring Gathering will be held on Saturday, April 11, 2015 at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Aurora. The theme is "Woven Together in Christ". The speakers are Cynthia Hannem from Cook with topic "With Gratitude in Your Heart, Sing Psalms, Hymns, and Spiritual Songs to God" and Jan Moore from Aurora about Global Health Ministries - Hands on Activities. If you are interested in going to the gathering contact Gloria at 750-7362. More information on this and other events please see the WELCA bulletin board.

Northeastern Minnesota Synod Women's Organization will hold their summer convention gathering at the University of Minnesota Duluth on Friday, June 12 and Saturday, June 13. The theme is "Trust in the Lord". Any woman who is member of an ELCA church can attend the convention. You can attend a two day convention, Friday only or Saturday only. Registration deadline is May 15. (Please see WELCA bulletin board for registration instructions and more information.)

2015 Summer Gathering has a scholarship program for women (post-high school to age 45) who are not presently participants in the Women of the ELCA but have an interest in learning about WELCA. Registration fees are paid for with exception of travel expenses. The group will have advisors and resources people who will stay with them. For this event a scholarship participant must stay in dorms at UMD. Registration must be submitted by May 1, 2015. (Please see WELCA bulletin board for more information).



Church Council Highlights

The church council met on February 10th at 6 pm with Vice-President Bruce Larsen calling the meeting to order.

Present: Shelley Svatos, Brenda Tibbetts AiM, Carole Rutka, Dan Peliska, Meagan Esterby, Ginny Ahrlin, Deb Lekatz, Bruce Rent, David Toole, Dave Crockett, Pastor Loren Anderson-Bauer, Bruce Larson, Marsha Aluni

Excused: Steve Carlson, Kristi Ongalo

Staff Reports:

Treasurer (Ginny) – \$2000 unpaid bills for January, \$8000 owed to the Line of Credit

Interim Pastor Loren Anderson-Bauer – attached/as written.

AiM Brenda's report – Attached/as written will be taking some vacation days at the end of this week

Director of Y & F – Meagan Esterby – Attached/as written

Ministry Team Reports

Caring Ministries/Welcome & Hospitality (AiM Brenda) -Thanked everyone for their help and contribution to the success of Mardi Gras.

Finance – (Ginny) -Staff now has direct deposit for their pay

Missions – (Dave, Diane, Carole) -Didn't meet in January as some members of the committee were on a mission trip to Jamaica

Property & Management – (Bruce) -committee feels a gate at the end of the West end hall would not give the impression of welcome, now they are exploring double doors that can be locked at different time of the day

Social Concerns -(Marc) - no report

Stewardship – (Deb) February 15th will be Time and Talent Sunday

Technology (Dan Peliska) – no report

Worship Music & Arts (Ginny Ahrlin, AiM Brenda Tibbetts) – services planned through Easter

Youth & Family/Christian Education –(Steve, Kristi) - Breakfast on Easter will be served from 8:00 to 9:30

Old Business:

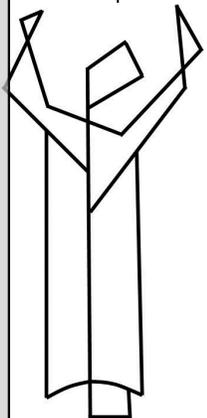
- Progress report on interviews for bookkeeper:
Interviews scheduled for February 12 at 3:00. There are two applicants.
- Pastor Loren will send the constitution to the Synod office
- Update on the Talent/Dinner/Silent Auction: Tentative date April 19th from 5:00 to 7:00 pm with a preview of Auction Items from 3:00 to 5:00
- Policy manual meeting to be scheduled with Pastor Loren, Ginny Ahrlin, Shelley Svatos, Brenda Tibbetts AiM. Kristi Ongalo will proof read final draft

New Business:

- Pastor Loren and Steve Carlson met with the insurance company regarding the recent break ins.
The insurance company has an online back ground check that can be utilized for hiring staff.
Megan and Amanda have been filling a survey for the insurance company regarding church policies, security systems.
- Committee Assignments: pastor Loren would like to do this at the Council retreat
- Council Retreat : February 21, 2015 'How to function as a healthy congregation.'
- Audit committee report: Pastor Loren would like to address suggestions made by the audit team in the Annual report.
 1. Review accounts payable and prioritize bills.
 2. An annual review of dedicated accounts to decide which accounts should be removed for lack of activity . Pastor Loren feels these dedicated accounts can be closed when the purpose of the account is no longer viable.
 3. The council recommend the Finance Committee review dedicated accounts and suggest how to proceed.
- Scott needs a replacement for 6 weeks while he recovers from surgery starting the second week of February. Pastor Loren has requested if Jim Ahrlin could make a list for members to sign up and help out while Scott is recovering.

Correspondence/Requests for use of building:

- Foster grandparent program to use the building on the third Tuesday of each month from 1:00 to 3:00 starting in March. A motion was made by Carole Rutka, second by Bruce Rent that we grant permission for this request. MPU
- Kris Weikum request the use of the sanctuary on March 22, 2015 for a piano recital. Motion was made. Dave Crockett , second by Deb Lekatz to grant this request. MPU



March Birthdays

Happy Birthday and God Bless!!

Connie LiaBraaten	1	David Starich	16
Stephen Troutwine	1	Kay Barsness	17
Daniel Miller	3	Christine Louks	17
Toni Nelson	4	Jill Westerbur	17
Jaelyn Parks	5	Patrick Green	18
Robert Rutka	7	Patricia Meyer	18
Robert Simensen	7	Ruth Thompson	18
Shawna Lopac	8	Katie Troutwine	19
Andrew Sipila	8	Scott Jensrud	21
Aaron Malopolski	10	Ray Ranfranz	21
Judith Towle	10	Daniel Starich	21
Alexis Carey	11	Judy Klima	22
Nancy Fisher	12	Ginny Ahrlin	23
Roger Suihkonen	12	Gavin Dahl	24
Lori Sundbom	12	Carol Carlson	26
Caley Westin	13	Dan Peliska	26
Ryan Gulbranson	14	Josh Putnam	26
Dennis Peterson	14	Christopher Westin	27
Jacob Weikum	14	Grace Kleven	28
Parker Wercinski	14	Karen McCue	28
Seth Dostal	15	Jim Ahrlin	30
Kris Schumacher	15	Russell Stahl	30
Christine Culbert	16	David Hendrickson	30
Rees Harvey	16	Tom Klabecheck	31
Melissa Nelson	16	Rebeka Weikum	31

PRAY

ER

PRAYER VIGIL - March 10, 2015

2015 WE ALL NEED PRAYER

In 2015, pray for your church family at Our Savior's. Prayer uplifts the person being prayed for, and the person who is praying. God is with us. Pray for these members of Our Savior's that their faith will grow and be strengthened through worship and involvement at OSLC, and that God's love be shared by us in our community.

For the week of March 1: Frank and Marlene Staudahar, Susan Sturgis, Roger and Brenda Suihkonen, Lori Sundbom, Lynn Sundbom, and their families.

For the week of March 8: Ray and Shelley Svatos, Arlen and Carol Swanson, Irene Swartout, Tony and Debbie Tammaro, and their families.

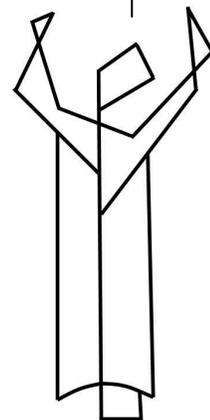
For the week of March 15: Doris Tamte, Darlene Teska, Ruth Thompson, Bill and Brenda Tibbetts, John and Donna Tini, and their families.

For the week of March 22: Larry and Karen Tokarczyk, David and Shannen Toole, Kenneth Toole, Rick and Joy Toole, and their families.

For the week of March 29: Judy Towle, Matt Troutwine, Phil and Mary Troutwine, Stephen and Katie Troutwine, Derek and Leah Tveit, and their families.

PLEASE GIVE US A CALL

If you are going to be in the hospital, are ill in any way, or would like to talk with someone in confidence about any problem or concern, please give Pastor Loren (218-343-9183) or AiM Brenda (750-0164) a call. We want to be there for you, and would appreciate you letting us know when we could be of help.



TRANSITION TABLE CONVERSATIONS

FOLLOWING WORSHIP - MARCH 8

ANNOUNCEMENTS



FoodShare March Campaign



During the month of March, each dollar and every pound of food donated to the food shelf will be partially matched. Social Concerns Committee will be taking contributions collected in the month of March and giving them to the Minnesota FoodShare March Campaign.

Elementary Rejuve



March 6-7 & 13-14 at Camp Hiawatha and March 20-21 at Camp Vermilion. It is an overnight retreat for 3rd—6th graders filled with games, worship, learning, and enjoying camp activities. Cost is \$50 per camper.



Engaging Energy for Ministry

If you have not yet turned a time and abilities form they are available in the church entrance or office.



Custodial Volunteering

While our custodian is out we need volunteers to sign up for the weekly tasks that need to be done in the church. Sign-up sheets are printed by weeks and are located on the kiosk in the narthex. Any help is greatly appreciated!



Soup Suppers

The annual Soup Suppers started February 25th and go thru March 25th. A sign-up sheet for volunteering to make soup is located on the kiosk in the Narthex. Plan on feeding a group of about 60 people when cooking.



New Member Class

Will be sometime in April. Please contact the church office if you are interested in joining Our Savior's Lutheran Church!



Don't Say No Until You Know Synod Event : (FREE EVENT!!)

Bishop Patricia Lull from Saint Paul Area Synod will give a keynote presentation on *Discipleship Today*; then the group will move into several practical workshop options that are intended for anyone in the congregation! Saturday, March 14; 1-4 pm at Grace Lutheran Church, Mora or Sunday, March 15; 2-5 pm at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Virginia. PLEASE REGISTER at www.nemnsynod.org.



Needed for Quilting

Sheets, blankets, pillowcases, etc are needed for the quilters here at church. Please donate any of these items you can!



Youth & Family Ministry

Palm Sunday (March 29)-muffins and fruit during fellowship. Contact Meagan. 10:30-11:30am
April 5th-Easter breakfast pancakes, between worship services. Contact Rick Toole.

Musicians



I am hopeful that Our Savior's can pull together enough musicians for an Easter band for April 5. It would be fun to have all a group of musicians of all ages-Junior High, High School, College and Adult. The group in the choir is on board, and a tentative rehearsal time is set for Wednesday, April 1 at 5:15 p.m. The choir will not be rehearsing that evening, but WILL have rehearsal Thursday April 2 (Holy Thursday) at 5:15.—contact Kris Weikum

St. Matthew Passion and Symposium with Dr. Martin Marty— March 27-29 at First Lutheran Church, Duluth



The Arrowhead Chorale, jointly with the UMD University Singers, the Lake Superior Youth Chorus and a local chamber orchestra and chamber choir from local churches will offer a performance of Bach's St Matthew Passion. Tickets available at UMD Box office; 218-726-8561. Adults = \$20 and 18 and under are free.

A Symposium held Sat, March 28 at First Lutheran Church features Dr Martin Marty, prominent church historian, and Dr. Timothy Stalter, tenor, for the performance. More info at <http://arrowheadchorale.com> or contact Marcia VanCamp at Vancampmarcia@yahoo.com.

WOOD FOR THE ARK

Every worthwhile mission has overhead, whether that overhead is time and energy expended or resources for postage, heat, snow plowing, an ark, etc.

The mission of Our Savior's Lutheran Church is "Rooted in Faith, Growing in Christ, Reaching to Serve."

In order to sustain the outreach of this congregation – the outreach we feel called to make our mission – a small group of enthusiastic and hopeful optimists have been laying the foundation for an event to raise funds to provide the overhead essential to supporting this mission of this congregation.

Details so far

Name:	"Wood for the Ark: A Sit-down Dinner, Talent Show, Silent Auction Fund-Raising Extravaganza"
Tentative Date and Time	Sunday, April 19 from 5-7 pm with a preliminary preview of auction items from 3-5
Event Leaders and Contacts	Event Coordinator- Kristi Ongalo Silent Auction- Deb Lekatz Dinner- Bob and Diane Dundas Talent Show- TBD

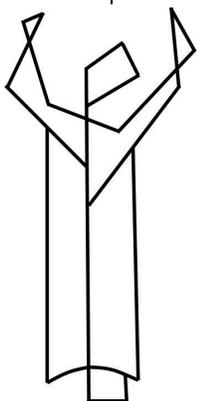
Here is what we still need:

- Items for the Silent Auction

Suggestions:

- Committee, Group, or Family-created theme baskets
 - Art or craft work
 - Services
 - Other creative ideas
- Someone to take the lead on the Talent Show portion of the event, endeavoring to invite families, groups, committees, and individuals to perform.
 - Families, committees, individuals committed to creating and providing items for the Silent Auction and talent for the Talent Show.

Prayerfully consider how you could be a part of this event to provide "wood for the ark."



How important it is for all of us that we be together with young children in church! Not because they are the "future church," but they are the "present church" and we are less the church God calls us to be when children or their families find church unwelcoming, unfriendly, or uncomfortable. The blog below is a reminder of how IMPORTANT it is for ALL OF US to be with young children in worship.

Dear Parents With Young Children in Church

from [I Am Totally *That* Mom](http://iamtotallythatmom.blogspot.com/) blogspot, May 19, 2013, by Jamie Bruessehoff <http://iamtotallythatmom.blogspot.com/>

You are doing something really, *really* important. I know it's not easy. I see you with your arms overflowing, and I know you came to church already tired. Parenting is tiring. Really tiring.

I watch you bounce and sway trying to keep the baby quiet, juggling the infant car seat and the diaper bag as you find a seat. I see you wince as your child cries. I see you anxiously pull things out of your bag of tricks to try to quiet them.

And I see you with your toddler and your preschooler. I watch you cringe when your little girl asks an innocent question in a voice that might not be an inside voice let alone a church whisper. I hear the exasperation in your voice as you *beg* your child to just sit, to be quiet as you feel everyone's eyes on you. Not everyone is looking, but I know it feels that way.

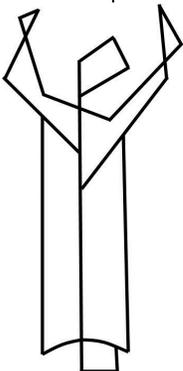
I know you're wondering, is this worth it? Why do I bother? I know you often leave church more exhausted than fulfilled. But what you are doing is so important.

When you are here, the church is filled with a joyful noise. When you are here, the Body of Christ is more fully present. When you are here, we are reminded that this worship thing we do isn't about bible study or personal, quiet contemplation but coming together to worship as a community where all are welcome, where we share in the Word and Sacrament together. When you are here, I have hope that these pews won't be empty in 10 years when your kids are old enough to *sit quietly and behave in worship*. I know that they are learning how and why we worship now, before it's too late. They are learning that worship is important. I see them learning. In the midst of the cries, whines, and giggles, in the midst of the crinkling of pretzel bags and the growing pile of crumbs, I see a little girl who insists on going two pews up to share peace with someone she's never met. I hear a little boy slurping (quite loudly) every last drop of his communion wine out of the cup, determined not to miss a drop of Jesus. I watch a child excitedly color a cross and point to the one in the front of the sanctuary. I hear the echos of "Amens" just a few seconds after the rest of the community says it together. I watch a boy just learning to read try to sound out the words in the worship book or count his way to Hymn 672. Even on weeks when I can't see my own children learning because, well, it's one of *those* mornings, I can see your children learning.

I know how hard it is to do what you're doing, but I want you to know *it matters*. It matters to me. It matters to my children to not be alone in the pew. It matters to the congregation to know that families care about faith, to see young people... and even on those weeks when you can't see the little moments, it matters to your children.

It matters that they learn that worship is what we do as a community of faith, that everyone is welcome, that *their* worship matters. When we teach children that their worship matters, we teach them that they are *enough* right here and right now as members of the church community. They don't need to wait until they can believe, pray or worship a certain way to be welcome here, and I know adults who are still looking to be shown that. It matters that children learn that they are an integral part of this church, that their prayers, their songs, and even their badly (or perfectly-timed, depending on who you ask) cries and whines *are* a joyful noise because it means they are present.

I know it's hard, but thank you for what you do when you bring your children to church. Please know that your family -- with all of its noise, struggle, commotion, and joy -- are not simply tolerated, you are a vital part of the community gathered in worship.



March 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1 9:30am Worship/Communion/ 10:30am Coffee 10:30am Bible Quest 10:40am Mission Meeting</p>	<p>2 10:30am AA 4:30pm T.O.P.S 6:30pm Boy Scouts</p>	<p>3 10am Full Staff meeting 3pm Property & Mgmt</p>	<p>4 7:30am Men's Brkfst 8am Quilting 10:30am AA 3pm Exec Board 3-5pm Faith Finders 4pm Finance committee 5:15pm Choir 5-6pm Soup Supper 6:15pm Worship 7pm Worship, Music & Arts</p>	<p>5 4pm Ladies Bible Study/Adventures 5pm Chorales 7pm NA</p>	<p>6 10:30am AA 8pm NA</p>	<p>7 10:30am AA</p>
<p>8 9:30am Worship/Communion 10:30am Transition Conversation 10:30am Coffee 10:30am WELCA board 2pm StRaphael's 3pm StMichael's</p>	<p>9 10:30am AA 2pm Evelyn Health Park Serv 3pm Youth&Family mtg 4:30pm T.O.P.S 6:30pm Boy Scouts Luther Seminary</p>	<p>10 8am-6pm Prayer Vigil 11am WELCA Leaders Bible Study 5:30pm Compassionate Friends Committee 6pm Church Council 6:30 Compassionate Friends/west wing Luther Seminary</p>	<p>11 7:30am Men's Brkfst 8am Quilting 10:30am AA 3-5pm Faith Finders 5:15pm Choir 5-6pm Soup Supper 6:15pm Worship</p>	<p>12 9am Caring Ministries 10:30am Fibromyalgia Sup 4pm Ladies Bible Study//ADV 5pm R&B Investors 5pm Chorales 6:30pm Scouting Roundtable Meeting/Social Hall 7pm NA</p>	<p>13 10:30am AA 8pm NA</p>	<p>14 8am Men in Mission 10:30am AA</p>
<p>15 9:30am Worship/Communion 10:30am Coffee/Pizza Sales 10:30am Social Concerns Committee 10:30am Bible Quest 2-5pm Synod Event</p>	<p>16 10:30am AA 4:30pm T.O.P.S 6:30pm Boy Scouts</p>	<p>17 10:30am Senior Companions 1pm Foster Grandparents/west wing 2pm St Michael's Service WELCA circles meet</p>	<p>18 7:30am Men's brkfst 8am Quilting 10:30am AA 3-5pm Faith Finders 5:15pm Choir 5-6pm Soup Supper 6:15pm Worship</p>	<p>19 4pm Ladies Bible Study/Adventures 5pm Chorales 7pm NA DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER ARTICLES</p>	<p>20 10:30am AA 8pm NA</p>	<p>21 10:30am AA</p>
<p>22 9:30am Worship/Communion/Passion drama during worship 10:30am Coffee 10:30am Bible Quest 12:30-3pm Piano recital</p>	<p>23 10:30am AA 4:30pm T.O.P.S 6:30pm Boy Scouts</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25 7:30am Men's Brkfst 8am Quilting 10:30am AA 3-5pm Faith Finders 5:15pm Choir 5-6pm Soup Supper 6:15pm Worship</p>	<p>26 4pm Ladies Bible Study/Adventures 5pm Chorales 7pm NA 9:30am Assemble Newsletters</p>	<p>27 10:30am AA 8pm NA</p>	<p>28 10:30am AA</p>
<p>29 9:30am Worship/Communion 10:30am Coffee/Heifer offering 10:30am Bible Quest</p>	<p>30 10:30am AA 4:30pm T.O.P.S 6:30pm Boy Scouts</p>	<p>31</p>				

Our Saviors Lutheran Church-ELCA

1111 S 8th Street

Virginia, MN 55792

218-741-6207

Email:office@oslcmn.com

Web: www.oslcmn.com

Non Profit Organization

U.S. Postage Paid

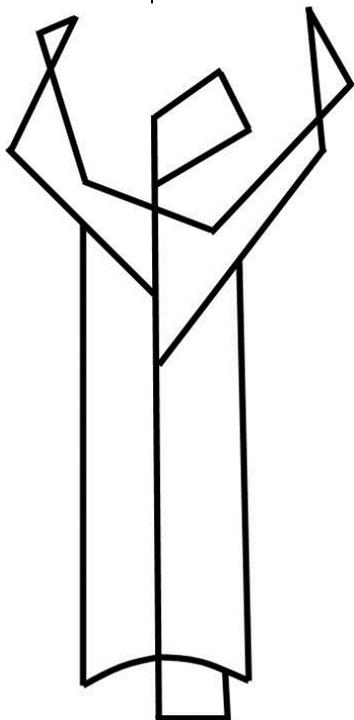
Virginia, MN 55792

Permit No. 46

** Address Service Requested

THE WITNESS

March 2015



Rooted in Faith †
Growing in Christ †
Reaching to Serve

OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH STAFF

MINISTERS	The Congregation
SENIOR PASTOR	Loren Anderson-Bauer, Interim 218-343-9183
ASSOCIATE IN MINISTRY	Brenda Tibbetts, AiM 218-750-0164
YOUTH & FAMILY	Meagan Esterby 218-410-4704
CHURCH OFFICE	Amanda McMillen
CUSTODIAN	Scott Jensrud
RADIO BROADCAST	Sunday 9:30am KRBT 1340 AM
TV BROADCAST	Cable Channel 5 Fri, Sat, Sun 6:30pm
OFFICE HOURS	Tues-Thurs 8:30am – 4pm Friday 8:30 am – 1 pm
PRAYER CHAIN	March-April Ginny Ahrlin 749-4718