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THE SONSHINE

A Monthly Publication of Our Savior Lutheran Church, Minot, North Dakota 58701
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- Rev. Paul A. Krueger, Pastor • Rev. Daniel Voth, Assistant Pastor • Rick Jones, Vicar
- Bonnie Rennich, Director of Music & Congregational Ministries • Peggy Trondson, Administrative Secretary/Editor

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Stepping Into the Future Rev. Daniel Voth Installed

Join us for an historic event on Sunday evening, February 21st as we install Rev. Daniel Voth as the Assistant Pastor for Youth and Young Adult Ministry at OSLC. The Installation Service will be held at 7:00 p.m. with a reception to follow. Pastors from our neighboring congregations will be joining us in this celebration as Pastor Voth begins his ministry with us. Please join us as we gather together and ask the Lord to bless Pastor Voth and his ministry here with us!

Pastor Voth is a 1999 graduate from Concordia Seminary in Ft. Wayne, IN.

He has been serving in Deer Park, WI for the past 6 years. Pastor Dan and his wife Crystal are blessed with four children and will be arriving in Minot this month. Help us welcome them to our church family!

Fill the Pantry

A great way to welcome the Voth's is to fill their pantry with food. Help us fill their pantry with food items by bringing canned goods and non-perishable items with you to church for the first two Sundays in February. There's a basket in the fellowship hall. With four small children every little bit will make a difference. Grab something and bring it this week!

Love, Lent, Learning and More!

Love...G-RRRR! Sometimes we are apt to growl our way through the day. God's answer to the "G-RRRRR" in our lives is love. Godly love, the kind that is "patient, kind, is not rude, self-seeking, keeps no record of wrongs" has an ability to drain away the "G-RRRRR" in our lives. Love is more than a "quiver in the liver" or an "ocean of emotion" that the Valentine's Day holiday celebrates. The greatest thing about God's love is its ability to change us inwardly and to bring peace and joyfulness into our lives.

St. Paul writes, "and over all these things put on love, that you may grow into perfect unity" (Colossians 3:14 LB). The greatest thing you can do for someone else is to love them as Christ has loved you. Christ's love is a mature love. It is an ever patient love, an ever kind love, it keeps no record of wrongs, it always hopes, always trusts, always protects, always preserves. It takes no delight in evil, but rejoices in the truth (1 Corinthians 13). It is the kind of love that drains away the "G-RRRRR". Have you wondered how to make a difference in the "G-RRRRR's" of someone's life? Love them!

While we're speaking of "Love" Just Got Engaged?

"Saving Your Marriage Before It Starts", Pastor Krueger's pre-marriage class is scheduled for March 12-13. If you're planning to get married at OSLC this year, then put these dates on your

calendar. This class is for you – giving you helpful hints and great insights into making your marriage strong and rewarding right from the start! Please register early by telephoning the church office to reserve your space. The registration fee is \$40 per couple, which will cover the cost of your book, "Saving Your Marriage Before It Starts" and your workbooks. For those planning to get married at OSLC, we ask that you attend pre-marriage classes. If you have questions or conflicts with the dates, please contact Pastor Krueger.

From "Love" to "Lent" "The Power of the Cross"

The cross changed human history – forever! Our upcoming 6-week Lenten series will help all of us do that together as we prepare our hearts to celebrate Jesus' Easter victory. The series, *The Power of the Cross*, begins on Ash Wednesday, February 17th at 7:30 p.m. Each worshipper will receive a free 6-week devotional booklet and the first piece of a magnet puzzle. Additional magnet puzzle pieces will be given out each of the following Wednesdays. The devotional booklet contains daily readings, and a weekly Bible study will be made available that you can do in your small group or on your own. Join us, and invite your friends and neighbors to come and share the Good News of the life-changing power of our life-giving Savior!

From “Lent” to “Learning” Sunday Morning Bible Class

Join Shawn Kramer at 10:00 a.m. each Sunday morning for a meaningful look at the book of Romans—practical, meaningful, helpful. Grow in perspective as the pages of St. Paul’s paramount book come alive.

The First Foundations of Faith Class For 2010

You’ve heard all the good things about it. Is it time for you to put depth into your faith? Then join us for the “Foundations of Faith” class. This 10 night course explores the great truths of the Christian faith with depth and meaning. It happens in a relaxed and informative manner. “How do we know there is a God?” “What is heaven really like?” “What happens when I die?” “Who is Jesus really?” Questions such as these and many more are addressed! Interested? Join us on Tuesday nights from 7:00-9:00 p.m. Classes begin on February 23rd and run through the month of March. Phone the church office to reserve your spot!

“Discover Sunday” Moved to March

February’s “Discover Sunday” events will be moved to March to allow us to celebrate the installation of Rev. Daniel Voth as our Assistant Pastor for Youth and Young Adult Ministries. However

... mark your calendars now! On Sunday, March 21st we’ll offer both C.L.A.S.S. 201 “Discovering Spiritual Maturity” and C.L.A.S.S. 301 - “Discovering My Ministry”. Many OSLC members have taken these courses. Make your plans now!

EXCEL!

ND District Leadership Skills Training

Eight OSLC leaders are currently taking part in the ND District’s “EXCEL!” Leadership Training. They join 35 other participants from all across the state who are growing in organizational, motivational, communication, people building skills and more through this 3 weekend training. Shepherd’s Hill at the Crossroads is hosting the event. As we build our leaders we build out church.

And more...

OSLC Leadership Summit Results

On January 17th, thirty OSLC leaders from each board and ministry met to set direction and target goals for 2010. Five targets were identified in this on-going process. Watch for the full report as we move into the year.

Love, Lent, Learning and More!

...kind of a nice handle to sum up the month of February. May God fill you with the richness of his love, this month and always!

Pastor Krueger

VICAR'S CORNER

The story of Christ is the cornerstone of our faith: God came to earth. He was born as a man. He performed miracles. He healed the sick. He helped those in need. He was killed—sacrificed—for the benefit of humanity. His death saved us. This is a familiar story to anyone who walks into a church on Sunday. However, this story is usually familiar to those who do not attend church also. This is because the Christ story is not just a central theme to our faith. The Christ story is a central theme of life.

Think about this: how many times have you watched a movie where one character sacrifices their life for the benefit of others? *Armageddon*, *Children of Men*, *Gran Torino*, and *the Matrix* are just a few examples of this theme. The same pattern can be found in literature. *The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe*, *The Lord of the Rings*, *The Old Man and the Sea*, and *The Lord of the Flies* all have central Christ figures in their plots. These lists do not even begin to number the countless examples of the gospel pattern that can be found in the art of our world. Christ is all around us in the media of our lives. His story is everywhere.

So why is the Christ story all around us? Why is it so prominent in our

culture? Many people have tried to answer this question. The famous psychoanalyst, Carl Jung, tried to explain the similarities of plot found in mythology and literature with the idea of a collective unconscious. The basic understanding here is that there is a universal disposition of all mankind to seek self-actualization and the divine. Jung saw this as the heart of all religious belief and as a shared reality for all people. For Jung, the similarities in human art were all a part of our shared desire for perfection.

There are other attempts to explain the Christ story's prominence in our world as well. Joseph Campbell, a prominent author, posed this theory: *the myths (stories) of all cultures and times are merely creative products of the human psyche*. He expressed his belief in the 1949 book, *The Hero with a Thousand Faces*. With his book, Campbell gave structure to the underlying myth (or story) of all culture. This underlying myth became known as the “monomyth” or “hero's journey.” You can probably guess what this “hero's journey” looked like—that's right, it looked like the story of Christ. Campbell's book is used almost like a text book for aspiring writers and Hollywood producers. Campbell's plot behind the “hero's journey” is now at the heart of nearly all major motion pictures and novels.

So what is really going on here? Is the Christ story central to mankind because

of the work of Joseph Campbell? I say no. I think Campbell stumbled on to a central piece of the human understanding of the world but I do not think it is simply an evolutionary drive for perfection as both Campbell and Jung seem to profess. I believe humanity's shared understanding of the "hero's journey" comes from our created nature. I believe all of humanity shares an appreciation for the Christ figure because we naturally need that Christ figure.

Colossians 1: 15-17 states, "15He [Christ] is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. 16For by Him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by Him and for Him. 17He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together." Here God tells us, through the words of Paul, that all things were created by Christ and that it is Christ who holds all things together. Might this be a better explanation for humanity's connection with the Christ story? I think the evidence speaks for itself when we understand we were created in the image of God (which is Christ according to verse 15) and we realize that all things are connected through this image (verse 17). This means that all of mankind is united by Christ.

Romans 3:23 says "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." This means we are all sinful and we all need

the redemption found in Christ. Perhaps our universal understanding of the Christ figure is God's way of revealing that need to us. All of creation truly does cry out in testimony to our Savior. The next time you read a book or see a movie that displays the Christ story or a Christ figure I urge you to think about the unity with all humanity you have in the power of Christ to forgive *your* sins.

→ MUSIC BEAT →
SMALL GROUP AND
VOLUNTEER MINISTRIES

Music Ministries

You don't want to miss an AWESOME concert coming up on Thursday, February 11th at 7:00 p.m. Don Wharton, a Christian singer/songwriter will be here to present a family concert for our enjoyment. Don Wharton began his career in 1979 and has performed over 3,000 concerts (at least one in all 50 states), recorded twenty albums, and survived a small plane crash into the Bering Sea. We are so fortunate to have him perform here at OSLC, so let's all come out and join in an evening of music and stories – and bring the whole family!!

Small Group Ministries

There is no power like the power of the cross. The cross changed human

history – forever! **The Power of the Cross** is worth thinking about, deeply. Our upcoming 6-week Lenten series will help all of us do that together as we prepare our hearts to celebrate Jesus' Easter victory. The series, **The Power of the Cross**, begins on Ash Wednesday, February 17th at 7:30 p.m. Each worshipper will receive a free 6-week devotional booklet and the first piece of a magnet puzzle. Additional magnet puzzle pieces will be given out each of the following Wednesdays. The devotional booklet contains daily readings, and a weekly Bible study will be made available that you can do in your small group or on your own. Join us, and invite your friends and neighbors to come and share the Good News of the life-changing power of our life-giving Savior!

Our new Singles group is up and running. They decided at their first meeting to have a Bible study every other Saturday and then enjoy an activity together on the opposite Saturdays. Check the newsletter calendar to see their schedule.

An additional small group study is in the works – just for women. Watch your bulletin and the Power Point announcements for more information coming soon!

A Small Group Host Visioning Meeting will be held on Monday, February 8th at 7:00. This will be a time of planning for the future of small group

ministry here at OSLC. We'll have a chance to talk about the strengths and the opportunities for our small groups. Plan to be there if you are currently a small group host, or if you are thinking about leading a group in the future. We need and welcome your input!

Volunteer Ministries

We need **YOU!!** Check the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall for a couple of opportunities to help serve here at OSLC. Specifically, we are in need of ushers and greeters. Stop by and sign up! I want to thank John Walker for putting together the Wild Game Potluck for our January New Member Sunday. It was a wonderful time of fellowship and fun. You know, there are SO MANY people who serve here week after week in many different ways. We appreciate all of you! There will be no Discover Sunday in February due to Pastor Voth's installation on February 21st at 7:00 p.m. We would love to have a great turnout for that Installation Worship Service, so put it on your calendar and make plans to come and officially welcome Pastor Voth into our church family.

In His service,
Bonnie Rennich
Director of Music and
Congregational Ministries

“My purpose is that they be encouraged in heart and united in love in order that they may know Christ.” Colossians 2:2

FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH

The year 2010 continues with activities and excitement on the horizon. Our Junior High youth are having their lock-in Friday, January 29th. With all that Vicar Jones has planned, the junior high youth will want to attend this event. Sleep??....no that is not being planned for that night!!

The Colts and the Saints are ready for the Super Bowl and all that's left for you is to order your "Super Bowl" pizzas from the NUTS kids. They will be making their fresh and tasty pizzas for your Super Bowl pleasure. This is their fundraiser to help them with their winter retreat to Shepherd's Hill later in February. Help those high school students out and enjoy the pizzas. They are delicious!!

Adults and youth, Saturday, February 6th brings the opportunity for those of you who enjoy the great North Dakota outdoors to try your hand at ice fishing. Information and sign-up sheets may be found on the youth bulletin board in the fellowship hall. The adventure will start at 8:00 a.m. Saturday morning at the church. Thank you to Jack Zolondek for heading

up this event and we hope you bring back lots of fish!!

Valentine's Day brings the annual youth hosted Valentine's Day Dinner, February 14th at 6:00 p.m. Be sure to make your reservations in advance. Watch for them to be selling tickets in the fellowship hall on Sunday mornings. We will look forward to this year's entertainment!! Thank you to Laurel Olson, Susan DeForest, and their team for all their hard work on this youth fundraiser. These fundraisers help offset youth expenses for their Mission Trip and other youth gatherings. Thanks to all of you who financially support our youth. You are making a wonderful investment.

"WE CARE", yes we do and your help with your Marketplace Foods receipts has been great. Please keep dropping those stamped receipts off in the plastic envelope on the youth bulletin board. They ALL add up and what an easy way to help the youth.

The month of February will continue to be an exciting time as Pastor Voth joins OSLC and begins his ministry with our youth. Our church has been blessed with amazing young people and now with the addition of Pastor Voth we look forward to giving our youth even more opportunities to grow in their faith. Thank you to all of you who offered your prayers and assistance to make this happen for OSLC. God Bless You!

STEPHEN MINISTRY

Listen Them Through It*

When the going gets rough . . .
Listen them through it.

When they stop being tough . . .
Listen them through it.

When they fib and tell lies . . .
Listen them through it.

Find the truth in their eyes . . .
Listen them through it.

When Christ's message they hear . . .
Listen them through it.

Guide their steps without fear . . .
Listen them through it.

They'll be secure in God's love . . .
because you listened them through it.

Verse by Kathy Figenshau

*Phrase coined by Susan Anderson

This verse reinforces the meaning of Stephen Ministry: To be there for another to LISTEN. To walk with them through their hurt, sorrow or burden and to help them through in a Christian way, allowing God to be the Cure Giver as we LISTEN and Love.

God's Blessings,
Penny Brandt
Stephen Minister

CARING FOR ONE ANOTHER

“Caring For One Another” is a small group Bible Study that meets at 2:00 p.m. each Tuesday afternoon. We’d love to have you join us! Participation is always voluntary so you don’t need to worry about being “put on the spot”!

Thank you Eline and Sue for visiting on January 19th. We enjoyed having you and seeing you!!!

Thank you to each one of you for your participation and to those who help set up and put things away each week. Special thanks for the treats you take turns in bringing. Yum!!

We have been doing the one page Bible studies. If you have any ideas or wish to lead a class, just let us know. It would be nice to take turns if you so desire.

Love in Christ,
Duane and Clara Schell
838-4498

SEWING DISCIPLES

Join us on Monday, February 1st and again on Monday, February 15th at 9:30 a.m. to tie quilts! Bring a friend and a sack lunch! It’s a great time of fellowship as we work on this worthwhile mission project for Lutheran World Relief!

FOREVER YOUNG

Are you in the 50+ age group? Forever Young is for YOU!! It's a time to gather together for some great fellowship while enjoying some delicious food...and you don't have to eat alone! As an added bonus, we have some kind of entertainment each month.

Since February is heart month and includes Valentine's Day and President's Day, let's use a "Red, White and Blue" theme for our potluck starting at 6:00 p.m. at the church on Friday, February 19th. Coffee is furnished so bring your favorite main dish, salad, or dessert. We will have a time of sharing following our meal. Do you have a favorite president? How about tips to maintain a healthy heart? Maybe you have a favorite Valentine story to share or even an antique radio or clock to bring along for some "remember when".

Thank you for taking the time to support Forever Young! Many hands make light work with all the help setting up and cleaning up! A special thank you to Theresa for furnishing the Door Prize for January!

Love through Christ our Lord,
Duane & Clara Schell
838-4498

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Feb. ?	Karl and Shelia Bethel
Feb. 5	Steven and Kristin Hall
Feb. 10	Jim and Vernetta Sanderson
Feb. 14	Scott and Theresa Meyers
Feb. 16	Bryan and Holly Stein
Feb. 22	Rich and Tammy Olson
Feb. 25	Ross and Karla Yates

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Feb. 1	Jim Sanderson Donovan Womack, Jr.
Feb. 2	LaDonna Schreiber Angela Benjamin Zachary Orvik Brock Mattson
Feb. 3	Erik Klug Jeremy Mosser Kyler Harder
Feb. 4	Todd Spaulding Gabriel Temples Shawn Marshall
Feb. 5	Naomi Haye Brittany Deplazes Rebecca Simonson
Feb. 6	Karen Atwood Nathan Simonson
Feb. 7	Cleo Berven Alicia Kerr Chloe Cowart
Feb. 8	Wayne Aga Justin Haugen Emma Lewis

Feb. 9 Nathaniel Lewis
 Hudson Dahly
 Shelby Anderson
 Feb. 10 Kerzy Sorensen
 Feb. 11 Darrell Bernsdorf
 Mavis Zahursky
 Melanie Axdahl
 Feb. 12 Evelyn Hildebrand
 Jenelle Krueger
 Paul Dockter
 Feb. 13 Norman Braaten
 Wendi Johnson
 Angela Aberle
 Graci Graham
 Feb. 14 Shana Erie
 Amanda Manuwal
 Feb. 15 Allan Hemstad
 Feb. 16 Kendo Carlson
 Angela Hagans
 Eric Tompkins
 Michael Fimreite
 Alyson Olstad
 Feb. 18 Rodney Plesuk
 Feb. 19 Alphonse Fleck
 Kharys Reinisch
 Shyann Hahn
 Shantel Hahn
 Tripp Klebe
 Feb. 20 Antoinette Freeman
 Jodie Overton
 Amber Yates
 Feb. 21 Alyson Preston
 Feb. 22 Keith Herdt
 Sarah Davidson
 Feb. 23 David Niess
 Melissa Graham
 Feb. 24 Tadd Demars

Feb. 25 Dalton Haugen
 Feb. 26 Carol Welke
 Thelma Gadue
 Feb. 27 Faye Herzog
 Jacob Saunders
 Feb. 28 James Lee
 Michael Haugen
 Mae Mosser
 Patrick Haye
 Vanessa Strandlien
 Feb. 29 Katie Ledoux
 Oliver Thompson

Happy Birthday and God's richest
 blessings to each of you! If your birthday
 is not listed, or if the date is incorrect,
 PLEASE call the church office
 and let me know!

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Serving Away From Home

Scott Howe
 Blake Hunter
 Chad Schell (home this month!)
 Matthew Voeller

FROM THE CHURCH RECORDS

Baptisms

January 17, 2010

Bailey Austin Berge

Son of Torin and Leslie Berge

Tyrus Marcus Martin

Son of Adam and Alisha Martin

New Members

Torin and Leslie Berge
Carter, Quinn and Bailey

Wanda Brandt

Debbie Denatdeale

Margaret Fields

Melissa Graham

Angela Hagans,

Michelle Harbaugh
Savannah, Jake and Jade

Jason and Ashley Haugen

Michael and Jan Haugen

Kraig and Jaclyn Klebe
Megan

Joshua Parisien

Glenn and Sandra Schell

Kelly and Julie Wetzal

Taylor and Jayden

Jane Brown

ATTENDANCE AND OFFERING AVERAGES

Attendance:

December Average: 400

January Average: 370 (so far)

Offering (General Fund):

December Average:

\$9,783.15/Week

Designated Fund Average:

\$2,956.25/Week

January Average: (so far)

\$7,527.81/Week

Designated Fund Average:

\$45.25/Week

Children's Sunday School:

December Average: 66

January Average: 58

FEBRUARY USHERS

8:30 a.m.

Rudy Steinke

Gayle Fimreite

9:45 a.m.

Tom Hauf

Wayne A. Johnson

11:00 a.m.

Ken Lewis

Jim Adkins

Kurt Hauf

Debbie Denatdeale

If you are willing to serve in this vital area of ministry, PLEASE call the church office at 852-6404 and let Peggy know or sign up on the bulletin board located in the Fellowship Hall!