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*The Newsletter*  
*January 2010*

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# THE SONSHINE

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## PASTOR'S MESSAGE

### 2010 – Something Great Awaits!

2010 marks the beginning of Our Savior Lutheran Church's 26<sup>th</sup> year as a congregation. Ours has been a history filled with wonderful blessings. We've seen our buildings grow, our staff expand, our membership rolls grow. We've seen packed worship services, seats filled in our Bible classes, small group ministries grow, children filling our sanctuary. We've seen prayers answered, hearts touched, lives transformed. It has been an exciting history ... with even more waiting to unfold as we begin the New Year!

### Something great waits as we begin new ministries to children and youth!

On a December Saturday morning, I sat in the Great Room eating lunch. There were 13 others with me who were volunteering their time to complete the renovations for our Child Development Center. Sitting there I could picture young children spending time each day in a learning and caring environment that glorifies God. **Something great awaits** as these children are touched with the love of God in Jesus Christ!

On the Friday after Thanksgiving, I sat in my office with Pastor Dan Voth. We were talking about the future of Youth and Young Adult Ministry at OSLC. Pastor Voth has been called to serve as our Assistant Pastor for Youth and Young Adult Ministry. As we

visited, we were each becoming more animated, thinking about the overwhelming needs facing youth today and the unique way that only the Church of Jesus Christ can meet those needs. It was an energizing afternoon as we realized just how much the ministries of Our Savior Lutheran Church have helped young adults in the past and just how much awaits. Though Pastor Voth has not formally accepted the call, it was yet another confirmation that **something great awaits** in our church. If you would indulge yourself for a moment, picture the growth of our Sunday School programs, our Wednesday KFC program, confirmation ministry, high school ministries and college/career ministries. More than any time in our recent history, our youth need the person of Jesus Christ in their lives. And working together, our investment in an Assistant Pastor is helping to make that happen! Truly **something great awaits!**

### **Something great awaits us as a congregation and a church family!**

Last Sunday I stood up to preach and almost stumbled on my words. My brain suddenly stopped as I realized the amazing number of people that were out there - both in front of me and beyond the glass doors at the back of the sanctuary! Everywhere I looked there were people! While other pastors are often looking at empty pews, I saw

people wondering if they'd find a seat! These are people hungry for God's Word, coming to Our Savior Lutheran Church because their lives are being blessed through the ministry of our church family! **Something great awaits!** As we look into the future, I see 2010 as a significant year for each one of us, both as individuals and as a church family. It will be a time where God will seek to call each one of us into a deeper trust, a deeper confidence, and a deeper relationship with Him.

2010 will be filled with opportunities for us as a church family. I invite you to join me as we step into God's opportunities with boldness and with confidence. His opportunities will include ways for us to bring people to discover Jesus Christ, as He commands us when He says, "*Go and make disciples of all nations.*" – Matthew 28:19 His opportunities will include ways for us as a church family to build people to mature faith, just as he tells us in Ephesians 4:12, "*...that the body of Christ might be built up ... so that all become mature, attaining the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.*"

His opportunities will include ways for us as a church family to equip believers for works of service, which honor Jesus Christ, and make a difference in the lives of others. Just as Jesus Himself said, "*I did not come to be served, but to serve.*"- Matthew 20:28

**If this is the case, then ... truly  
something great awaits!**

Is this the year when you are saying, *“This year I want to grow deeper in my connection to Jesus Christ?”* If so, the beginning of a new year is a great time to start! Are you saying, *“I love my church, but I don’t know many people yet?”* Well, the start of a new year is the time to make that happen! My desire is for you to become more deeply connected with others in your church family, and with your Lord Jesus Christ – because **something truly great awaits** you too!

As this New Year begins, there are three requests I would like to make of you at this time:

- **Pray fervently** for Our Savior Lutheran Church and our unique opportunities as we move forward.
- **Participate actively** in ministry opportunities of our Church. Grow your faith; help others to grow!
- **Recommit yourself** to a personal walk with Jesus Christ – reflecting His light in the world in which we live!

On a personal note, once again my family and I are overwhelmed by the kindness and generosity of the members of our church. We have received so many cards and gifts that we are humbled by the expression of your kindness. Thank you so very much. We appreciate you with all our hearts! A very blessed New Year to each one of you!

See you on Sunday!  
Pastor Krueger

**A NEW SPIRIT FOR A  
NEW YEAR: UNLOCKING  
THE SECRET OF ...**

Strengthen your relationships God’s way! Starting January 3<sup>rd</sup>, join us for a Sunday morning preaching series titled, “A New Spirit for a New Year.” Using Galatians 5, we’ll unlock the “fruits of the Spirit” and apply their truths in some very practical ways that you may find helpful for your home. Make plans to join us for the first nine Sundays of the New Year as we “unlock” their secrets for our lives!

**HUNTERS! “WILD GAME  
POT-LUCK DINNER” TO  
WELCOME NEW  
MEMBERS!**

Our next New Member Sunday will be January 17<sup>th</sup>, where we will celebrate with new individuals and families as they join OSLC’s church family! At 12:15 p.m. following our 11:00 worship service,

the congregation is invited for a “Wild Game Potluck”! Hunters, here’s your chance to cook and bring your very best recipes to share with your church family! Pheasant, goose, grouse, deer, antelope, moose, partridge, duck, turkey – you name it! Whatever you’d like to bring! **We’ll also provide some “regular food” for those who aren’t really sure about the wild game – so come one come all!** We’ll provide dishes and the drinks. You provide the appetite! Bring a lot! Come hungry! Plan to stay a while. It will once again be an opportunity for you to visit, meet and greet the new members of our church family! Hope you’ll join us!

## 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.

## NEW 2010 OSLC LEADERS

### Leadership Brunch and more!

Were you elected to serve on OSLC’s Board of Education? Board of Youth? Board of Trustees? Or any of the other OSLC Boards for 2010? If so, welcome! To get things rolling right out of the gate, you are invited to join us for two important Leadership gatherings in January. First, we’ll get things started with a Leadership Brunch, 10 am to noon, on Saturday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>, here at the church. Find out where to get started! The second important leadership event is on Sunday afternoon, January 17<sup>th</sup>. This is our “Discover Sunday Leadership Event.” This is a vital event for all board members as we prayerfully work through the strategic planning process for 2010. We’ll set the important priorities for our work together so you won’t want to miss it. This “Discover Sunday” event begins at 2:30 p.m. and will conclude with supper at 6:00 p.m. Experts say for every one hour you spend in planning, you save three hours in implementation. Knowing how busy each

of us are, let's invest in the time together during January so that we can be the most effective servants of our Lord as the rest of the year unfolds! If you have questions, please give Pastor Krueger a call.

## VICAR'S CORNER

### Creation Matters

Creation matters—that is, belief in creation as it is presented in Genesis is foundational to our faith. Currently we have two prevailing sources of information concerning the origins of the world and some people see the need to reconcile them. The religious community points to God as the source of creation while the scientific community points to evolution as a way of explaining creation. The problem is both communities can offer persuasive explanations so people do not want to discredit either. This leads to the question, “Could God have used evolution as a way of creating life as we see it on earth?” People do not want to decide between religion and science so they try to combine the two by incorporating evolution in to creation. This unfortunately presents some problems.

The concept of God using evolution as a part of creation is commonly referred to as *theistic evolution*. Occasionally it is also called *intelligent design*; however

intelligent design can also refer to studies and research in creation without the inclusion of evolutionary theory. Whichever way you label it, the acceptance of evolutionary theory creates several theological problems, or problems with our view of God and His relationship with the world. First it distorts the place of God in creation. Second it has implications about the role of sin and death. And finally, it has major implications on morality. Let's evaluate each of these problems individually.

First we must note that there are several variations of theistic evolution. One suggests that God used natural forces in all aspects of creation. Basically God designed the natural laws and then let nature do all the work. This would mean God used secondary forces to do everything. For example: the creation of the continents happened through tectonics and life evolved from a collection of amino acids and proteins into the complexity we find today. God let nature work everything out without getting involved Himself.

A second variation, called *front-loaded creation*, says that God placed all of the potential for the diversity of life into the first single-celled organism and then allowed evolution to fill the earth with the diversity of life we see today through natural selection. This approach emphasizes evolution as a tool of God.

Besides negating the clear biblical account of creation presented in Genesis,

both of these theories take God out of the center of creation. They paint God as uninvolved. God is now aloof to human affairs. He is no longer the sustainer of life. He has now only provided the opportunities for life instead of creating it Himself. These theories do not account for God interacting in human history. This is a major problem because we have records of God miraculously intervening in history throughout the entire Bible.

Interaction with our history is one way God reveals Himself. God personally set the plagues on Egypt and parted the Red Sea to rescue Israel from slavery. God delivered Jonah to Nineveh by appointing a giant fish to swallow him. Our salvation is founded upon God being involved with His creation. He came to earth as a human being in Jesus Christ to redeem us from our sins. How much more involved can you get? If you take away God's involvement with creation, you take away salvation.

There is a third variation of theistic evolution that attempts to solve this problem; it is described as *descent with design*. What this means is that God used evolution as a tool for creating life but still finds places to reveal Himself and interact with history. This theory is just another attempt to reconcile "science" with religion.

While this theory tries to keep God involved with creation throughout history it still negates the Biblical account in

Genesis which presents the seven days of creation. This theory also tends to make God a *god of the gaps*. This means that God is only the explanation for everything we cannot explain with science. This may sound good at first but we soon find out God's dominion erodes. As technology advances and we discover more about our world there is less we cannot explain and thus God gets smaller and smaller. With this assumption, God diminishes as technology increases. This theory again displaces God from His intimate involvement in all of creation.

All three of these theories also hold a misunderstanding about death. All three theories assume there was death **before** Adam and Eve's fall into sin. You cannot have evolution without death. Evolution requires the diversity of life to develop through countless generations of progress through the means of death. This again clearly contradicts the Genesis account. Genesis 3 contains the consequences for the fall. Verse 19 says we are dust and to dust we shall return. The actuality of death is just then being established. God pronounced it as the punishment for eating from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. This happens **after** creation, not before or during. Evolution requires death before the fall.

If you accept theistic evolution you distort the role of death in our lives. With evolution death is no longer a

punishment, it is a necessity. Evolution changes death from a consequence to a means. This is contrary to our faith. Death is the enemy; death takes away life. Evolution views death as a means for creating new life.

This realization leads to the final consequence evolutionary theory has on religion. Evolution can become a slippery-slope. It starts with an attempt to explain aspects of life. It tries to account for the diversity in life. It uses the means of natural selection, or survival of the fittest, as its catalyst for change or progress. When that means is carried to its logical conclusion it has severe implications for morality and ethics in society. If the motivation behind life is now adaptation and the progression of life into better, more capable forms, then we have to make some changes to the way we view the world. With evolution as the source for life, death becomes a means of perpetuation. This makes abortion and euthanasia desirable means to carry out the next stage in the life process. We should no longer devote time and resources to caring for those who are afflicted with disease or disfigurement. People with disabilities are now devalued. Anyone who does not measure up to the standard is no longer human.

Adolf Hitler was employing this idea when he began to slaughter Jews, people of African ancestry, and individuals with disabilities. Hitler was trying to create a

master race by weeding out all the “undesirables” of society. He was trying to force an evolutionary change. This is the logical end to evolutionary theory. The world becomes amoral, the preservation of life is no longer a virtue; it is a hindrance. This sounds a bit extreme but we have a clear case in history where it is the truth.

So why does this happen? Why do people try to reconcile evolutionary theory with the religious explanation? It starts with good, devote intentions. Many people who promote theistic evolution believe they are protecting God. They see aspects of nature they cannot immediately understand so they try to synthesize a theory to protect God from scrutiny. Thinking that God needs to be protected or that there are aspects of creation that God did not ordain, limits the power and wisdom of God. It puts God in a box. “Protecting” God elevates man’s wisdom over God’s. God is omniscient, He knows everything. He is omnipotent, He is all powerful. He is in control. He does not need us to defend him. God has implemented a plan that includes every aspect of creation, even the things we have not discovered yet. He knows what He is doing far better than we do. We must let Him be God and we must be content as His creatures. We need His help, He does not need ours.

“Putting God in a box” is what leads many evolutionists to atheism. They

cannot understand why God would design so many similarities into very different animals; like the commonality of a five “fingered” appendage, or all DNA being made up of the same four proteins. Some cannot understand why God would leave apparently useless material inside his creation; like the human appendix or “junk” DNA. They see these things in nature and it does not fit with their conception of God. It is not how they believe God should have created the world. So instead of changing their view of God to being truly all powerful and all knowing, they simply conclude that He does not exist. This is the fundamental argument for atheists who promote evolutionary theory. They claim this is an argument based on scientific research but in actuality it is a theological argument. They are making claims about God, not claims about science.

Evolutionary theory presents struggles for some people’s faith so they try to incorporate it into their faith. This is a fatal mistake. By incorporating evolution into faith we take God out of creation, we negate the consequences of sin, and we destroy morality. Instead of catering to the “scientific community” we must trust in God and realize that He is God. He has it all worked out. He has provided for us by getting involved in creation as our savior. Evolution breaks down the foundation of our faith because it is based on a flawed perspective.

Science and research are great vocations and tools but they must be viewed in the appropriate light of trusting in God.

**→ MUSIC BEAT →  
SMALL GROUP AND  
VOLUNTEER MINISTRIES**

**A Variety Show!!! Woo Hoo!!!  
Don’t Miss It!!!  
Fundraiser for the Adult Mission  
Trip!!! Hilarious Acts!!!**

That’s right – we are hosting a Variety Show right here at Our Savior Lutheran at 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, January 9<sup>th</sup>. We will be serving up popcorn and pop and so much entertainment you won’t believe your eyes!! Invite your friends and neighbors! Stop whatever you’re doing right now – get out your calendar and write this date down – Saturday, January 9<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m. here at OSLC. Maybe you have a talent you’d like to share with your church family – let me know by Saturday, January 2<sup>nd</sup> so we can get you in on the action! I will guarantee lots of laughter – SO DON’T MISS IT!!

**Music Ministries**

Wow – what a month of music we enjoyed in December as together we celebrated the birth of our Lord Jesus! Advent hymns, Christmas hymn-sings,

Children's Christmas program, the choirs, eleven AM concert, two gorgeous Christmas Eve services, your beautiful voices raised in songs of praise to the Christ of Christmas. I don't know about you, but I'm not ready for all of that to be over yet. How about we continue to celebrate the Son of God coming to earth in human form the whole year—how about we keep the JOY of Christmas in our hearts the whole year? I'm thinking my New Year's resolution might be to challenge myself to talk about Jesus as much as I sing about Him!

Believe it or not, the choirs will now begin working on our Easter cantata! We will be instantly reminded of the connection from "cradle to cross". We will be presenting a cantata we did quite a few years back entitled "Who is This King?" And again, we are planning to make this a joint effort with the choirs of St. Mark's and St. Paul's. Maybe you've been thinking about joining choir, but just got too busy last fall. This is a great time to become a choir member. We meet Wednesday evenings – 6:00 p.m. for the Men's Choir and 6:30 p.m. for the Adult Choir. Come and join us!

### **Small Group Ministries**

Beginning January 3<sup>rd</sup>, we will be starting a new sermon series: "A New Spirit for A New Year" based on the fruits of the Spirit. Bible studies should be available on the web and hard copies at the greeter table in the Fellowship Hall.

If your small group is looking for a study to begin, please give me a call. I have LOTS of resources to share with you!

And here's another opportunity for a small group involvement. We hope to start a singles ministry in January. The organizational meeting is scheduled for January 9<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. here at the church, so come and help with the formation of this new ministry group.

Are you interested in being a part of our Small Group Ministries? Maybe you just have some questions about how it all works. Please contact me at 852-6404 and let's talk!

### **Volunteer Ministries**

I've heard so many positive comments about the greeters that have been our "friendly welcomers" at the door. It's great to see a smiling face as soon as you walk in. For some, it's the only smiling face they may see all week. I want to thank those of you who have signed up to serve as a greeter AND I would like to encourage others to follow their lead. If you check the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall, you'll see that we have many open dates coming up here in January and beyond. Please take a minute to sign up and be one of the friendly faces people see when they walk in to OSLC! And as always, being that welcoming person is not just the job of a greeter. We all want to reach out to those who come in our doors with a genuine and warm welcome!

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*

## LHLH CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

Little Hands, Loving Hearts  
Child Development Center, Inc.

“Reflecting the light of God’s love  
by embracing children and their families  
and encouraging growth in mind,  
body, and spirit.”

After nearly four years of obediently  
pursuing God’s directive to reach out and  
share Jesus with the littlest children in our  
community, Little Hands, Loving Heart’s  
opening date of January 4, 2010 is  
suddenly upon us! The anticipation feels  
a little bit like playing hide and seek as a  
kid; my heart thumps the giddy refrain...  
“Ready or not, here we come!”

Though the challenges have been  
unrelenting, the BLESSINGS have been  
ABUNDANT the last several weeks as  
we’ve put the finishing touches on our  
child development program. Our mighty

God has made His presence known  
through the selfless efforts of our  
dedicated renovation crew, OSLC and  
LHLH CDC Board of Directors, and  
church and community families! As  
you’ve prayed for us, freely given of your  
time, and showered us with words of  
encouragement, we felt our burdens  
lighten and our Lord’s promised  
presence! THANK YOU and may God  
bless you all!

Philippians 4:4-7 has been a constant  
source of comfort and encouragement  
during this time of preparation. “Rejoice  
in the Lord always. I will say it again:  
Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident  
to all. The Lord is near. Do not be  
anxious about anything, but in  
everything, by prayer and petition, with  
thanksgiving, present your requests to  
God. And the peace of God, which  
transcends all understanding will guard  
your hearts and your minds in Christ  
Jesus.”

Do you remember back a couple of  
years ago when we conducted a LHLH  
CDC congregational survey? Several  
church members indicated at that time  
that they might be willing to sponsor a  
portion of a child’s enrollment as part of  
their stewardship commitment. An  
opportunity has already presented itself in  
this regard. Please contact me at 852-  
5454 or stop into my office in Room 111  
if your heart is moved to pursue  
information concerning this.

And so, once again, we'd like to invite you to take part in our dedication ceremony on Sunday, January 3<sup>rd</sup> following the 11:00 a.m. service. With thanksgiving on our lips and in our hearts we'll dedicate this outreach mission ministry of Our Savior Lutheran Church! Lives are about to be changed by the love of the Savior!

Forward in faith,  
Terry Voeller, CDA  
LHLH CDC Director

## FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH

Christmas and New Years are over...next comes Valentine's Day! Sunday, February 14<sup>th</sup> at 7p.m. will be the Valentine's Day Dinner at OSLC. Check out the bulletin for more information.

Sleep? Who needs sleep? Over 20 High School Students came out to a Lock-In at OSLC on December 4-5<sup>th</sup>! From devotions to scavenger hunts to homemade pizza to tons of snacks to games to trivia...the kids were busy. What a blessing! We plan to have more Lock-Ins with other ages of youth in the

future. Pay attention to the bulletin announcements and the youth bulletin board for updates.

For anyone who would like to donate to the youth, you can do so by grabbing a red envelope titled "Youth Scholarship Program" on the usher's table outside the sanctuary and dropping it in the offering plate or at the church office. Donations can be made to the youth general fund or to a specific youth to help sway the costs of trips or events.

Do you buy groceries??? Our Savior Youth Need Your MarketPlace Foods Receipts!!! Every time you make a purchase at MarketPlace Foods, either big or small, ask the cashier for a "WE CARE" stamp. Bring the stamped receipt to church and place it in the plastic envelope on the youth bulletin board in the fellowship hall. 1% of your purchase will be contributed to the youth of Our Savior Lutheran Church. It's that easy! Thanks to those of you who already bring in receipts...what a great way to donate with so little effort.

## ALL ABOUT YOU(TH)!

**Carly Olstad**

*My family consists of my mom, stepdad, 2 brothers, 1 sister, and my grandpa.*

*If I could explain my personality in one word, it would be Goof!*

*My favorite Bible passage is Isaiah 21:5.*

*My favorite memory at OSLC was the slow down buster brown 2009 ski trip.*

*Events and activities that I have been involved in at OSLC are JAM nights, ski trips, lock-ins, nuts.*

*When I grow up, I want to be a chef/pastry chef.*

*One person that I admire is my grandpa.*

*If I could interview one person in the Bible, it would be Jesus.*

*Something else you should know about me is I am a people person.*

*Carly lives in Minot, is in 12<sup>th</sup> grade and attends Magic City Campus.*

## BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Board of Education has added some valuable new members for 2010. I was very happy to see the people who were interested in helping our children at

Our Savior Lutheran know the love of Jesus.

January brings a new year and more tasks to be completed. We will be planning the Sunday School teachers meeting for February and going over once again the calendar for the year. If there is anything that you think would be beneficial to the children of Our Savior Lutheran Church, please talk to a member of the Board of Education. On the board are Joan Hance, Joyce Goodvin, Tanya Cowart, Kim Haugen, Marilyn Eaves and Cindy Bitz.

We would like to know if there is anyone that would help with a 10-15 minute opening devotion for the Sunday School. Brent Detlaff has been a great help with the opening, but we would like some other volunteers to help on a Sunday or two. Also, if you would be willing to substitute teach, we would like to know that too.

The children enjoyed the children's Christmas program this year. The 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> grade were a big help in the set-up and organizing of supplies and getting the younger children costumed for the manger scene. Plus, all the children did a great job of memorizing their lines. I love the enthusiasm of the children for singing "Go Tell It On The Mountain" and it's so important to know the reason is that "Jesus Christ is Born". Beth Feist-McHenry put the program together and divvied up the parts. We would not have

been able to have the program this year without Beth's help.

*"Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it." Proverbs 22:6*

Gayle Balster  
Board of Education

## FROM THE CHURCH STAFF

We would like to extend a very special heartfelt THANK YOU to each and every one of you who remembered us with your prayers, cards, gifts and expressions of love during the Christmas season. We are so grateful to be a part of such a wonderful church family. May God bless you richly in this New Year as we serve in the work of our Lord together!

In His service,  
Rev. Paul and Julie Krueger  
Rev. Tom and Marilyn Eaves  
Vicar Rick and Betsy Jones  
Bonnie Rennich  
Peggy Trondson  
Terry Voeller

## ANGEL TREE MINISTRY

We are very thankful for our involvement in Angel Tree which is a part of Prison Ministry. We appreciate Our Savior's decision each year to be a sponsoring church. There are Angel Trees throughout our community and they are sponsored by Community Action, Women's Abuse Center and other groups. They serve the needy children in our area. They are not affiliated with Prison Ministry. Prison Ministry trees are located in churches and serve the children of inmates.

Angel Tree begins with a prayer that the inmate (in any state) will visit with the Chaplain to obtain the application to fill our requesting gifts for his/her children ages 0-18. Those forms are then sent to the area where the families reside. Our Savior receives 50 names of children that live within 80 miles of Minot. Each child receives two gifts—one a clothing item and the other a fun item. Each family is called to confirm sizes, needs and addresses.

We have a fantastic group of 60 known volunteers that are exceptional about coming to help. We meet to label the angels, put up the tree and set up the outdoor stable scene the Sunday before

Thanksgiving. This year we had willing hands to help build the new stable. Many, many thanks for their willingness and talents to build this very special stable for us.

Volunteers choose an angel from the tree, purchase the gifts, wrap them and return them to the church. The gifts are then sorted into family groups or towns for delivery.

You are an angel in their lives when you give their children a gift and the message of Jesus Christ. We already have two wonderful stories this year to share with you. A little boy saw the gifts and was asked, "Do you know these are yours?" He just looked. "These are from your Dad." His eyes grew large and a huge smile came and stayed! A young mom, "Oh my, this is, oh my, this is our Christmas!" What heartwarming scenes these are for us to be a part of as we deliver the gifts.

We are a small part of the large organization which had 7,773 churches serving 376,852 children across the nation in 2009. In our area we had 14 churches serving 344 children.

Prayer is the foundation of our endeavors. We pray for the entire program, our local involvement, all the volunteers, and of course we keep the inmate, the children and the families in prayer during the year.

Anonymity and confidentiality are critical to our success. We appreciate your respect and consideration for the

volunteers, the children and families we serve. May you be blessed as you are a blessing to those we serve.

Angel Tree Team

## CARING FOR ONE ANOTHER

You are invited to come join our "Caring For One Another" Bible Study. We meet Tuesday afternoons at 2:00 p.m. in the OSLC Fellowship Hall. Currently we are doing "one page Bible studies".

Thank you to all who attend and offer their insights. You don't have to worry about being "put on the spot" as participation is on a volunteer basis. Thank you to those who help set up and put things away when we're done. We appreciate the special treats each week and Duane for making sure the coffee is on!

We pray your Christmas Season was truly blessed and we wish you a wonderful Happy Blessed Year ahead. We have a prayer chain going and our thoughts and prayers go out to all.

New Year's Peace and Joy,

Duane & Clara Schell  
838-4498

## SEWING DISCIPLES

We're ready to get back on track tying quilts! Join us on Monday, January 4<sup>th</sup> and again on Monday, January 18<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m. Bring a friend and a sack lunch! It's a great time of fellowship as we work on this worthwhile mission project!

## FOREVER YOUNG

Are you in the 50+ age group? You're going to love coming to the church on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of each month starting at 6:00 p.m. sharp! We gather for a potluck meal and actually start eating right at 6:00 p.m. while the food is good and hot. And speaking of good, it is always soooooo good! Our gathering on January 15<sup>th</sup> will include a program—"Show and Tell". Bring a favorite or not so favorite Christmas gift, or part of a collection to tell about or to have on display. You could identify it with your name or what the collection is about on an index card or piece of paper. This should be fun!

Thanks to the *Chew Tones* of Minot who presented us with a special program of music for our November

gathering. We did not have a gathering in December this year.

We look forward to seeing you January 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.! May your year ahead be truly blessed with good memories and health. If you are struggling with health issues we pray they go away, and you feel better soon.

Our Love and Prayers,  
Duane and Clara Schell  
838-4498

## 2010 GIVING ENVELOPES

The 2010 giving envelopes were mailed out about the middle of December. If you did not receive any envelopes and would like some, PLEASE call the church office and Peggy will be happy to help you.

Thank you for USING your envelopes. It saves our "counters" a lot of work and time as well as our secretary who records all the giving.

Thank you for your faithful giving to the mission and ministry of Our Savior Lutheran Church. May God richly bless you and your family!

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Jan. 3      Ray Mertz  
Jan. 4      Jennifer Alexander

	Marcus Detlaff	Jan. 20	Holly McElwain
	Angela Leifson		Joshua Coleman
Jan. 5	Calvin Packard		Codi Willoughby
	Michelle Schonauer		Haley O'Connor
Jan. 6	Michael Johnson	Jan. 21	Henry Fazardo
	Alyssa Proper	Jan. 22	Charles Gage II
	Brandon Sperling		Carson Valdez
	Alexis Pate	Jan. 23	Taylor Fowler
Jan. 7	Sharon Dionne		Cameron Olson
	Deborah Eraas	Jan. 24	Corleen Haugeberg
	Samuel Overton		Mandy Gange
	Riley Rice		Kacie Schaefer
Jan. 9	Jeffrey Dockter		Jack Williamson
	Jessica Eaves	Jan. 25	Robert Pister
Jan. 10	Travis Krueger		Jayden Wetzel
	Janice Nelson	Jan. 26	Janis Allen
Jan. 11	Milton Olson		Gayle Balster
	Gregg Orvik		Todd Mikkelson
	Nicole Podoll		Renae Johnson
Jan. 12	Stephen Schoenrock		Sawyer Olson
Jan. 13	Robin Forbes		Jax Rosenbaum
	Jason Overton	Jan. 27	Winefred Loraas
	Traci Hair		Kevin Sicker
Jan. 14	Hannah Gilseth		Kraig Klebe
Jan. 15	Kathryn Haugen		Slade Polsfut
	Craig Eraas	Jan. 28	Rachel Simonson
	David Alexander		Kimberly Martin
	James Dockter		Jesse Vetter
	Abagayle Tohm	Jan. 29	Benji Johnson
	Karley Bissett		Paul Polsfut
Jan. 16	Allan Thurston	Jan. 30	Jeanette Wenger
	Kim Nordstrom		Jeff Laib
Jan. 17	Cadyn Koetter	Jan. 31	Todd Awalt
Jan. 19	Joyce Thurston		Erna Tkachenko
	Marcella Ludwig		Christopher Harder
	Robert Ludwig		Avery Behm
	Ken Lewis		Jersey Awalt

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!

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Jan. 5 Paul & Susan Ziolkowski  
Jan. 14 Glenn & Sandra Schell  
Jan. 14 John & Darcy O'Connor  
Jan. 14 Kyle & Ashley Bergstedt  
Jan. 16 Merle & Eileen Zander  
Jan. 20 Bruce & Deb Jungling  
Jan. 21 Greg & Margie Marshall  
Jan. 22 Roger & Penny Wahus  
Jan. 26 David & Brenda Niess

## REMEMBER IN PRAYER

### Serving Away From Home

Scott Howe  
Blake Hunter  
Chad Schell  
Matthew Voeller

## FROM THE CHURCH RECORDS

# Baptisms

**December 6, 2009**

Jordyn Marie Schaefer  
Daughter of Julie Schaefer  
and Jeff Schaefer

**December 26, 2009**

Aiden Wade Krueger  
Son of Travis and Donnelle Krueger

## ATTENDANCE AND OFFERING AVERAGES

### *Attendance:*

November Average: 339

December Average: 400 (so far)

### *Offering (General Fund):*

November Average:

\$7,565.73/Week

Designated Fund Average:

\$219.60/Week

December Average: (so far)

\$9,356.47/Week

Designated Fund Average:

\$441.66/Week

### *Children's Sunday School:*

November Average: 81

December Average: 66

## ADULT SINGLES MINISTRY

On January 9, 2010 at 4:00 p.m. we will be meeting here at the church to form an OSLC Adult Singles Ministry. This meeting is open to all single adults over the age of 18. Coffee and cookies will be served. The agenda will be:

1. Establish that there is a desire for an Adult Singles Ministry.
2. Establish ministry objectives: solely a Bible study, solely an activity group, solely a community outreach group, other, or a combination of all these things.
3. Establish general guidelines of meetings, such as always opening with prayer, etc.
4. Establish meeting days with the goal of meeting once a week.

Please, if you are a single adult, pray and seek guidance if you should participate and what objectives of this group would best serve God. If you are not single, we still ask for your prayers that this new ministry will serve God and that God will bless this ministry with His grace.

If you have any questions or suggestions about this group, please contact Bonnie Rennich at 852-6404.

## JANUARY USHERS

**8:30 a.m.**

Darrell Bernsdorf  
Craig Eraas  
Dennis Oothoudt

**9:45 a.m.**

Glenn Klebe  
Merle Zander

**11:00 a.m.**

Michael Orvik

If you are willing to serve in this vital area of ministry, PLEASE call the church office at 852-6404 and let Peggy know!