

Highlights

- Pastors' Messages
- Vicar's Corner
- Music Beat –

- Calendar
- Birthdays and Anniversaries

Inside

- Attendance and Offering

The Newsletter
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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

*If Christ has not been raised, then ...
we are all to be pitied more than all men."*
1 Corinthians 15:14, 19

Victory

Most victories don't come easy. They are often preceded by frustration, even defeat. In 1858, Abraham Lincoln ran as a candidate for the United States Senate. Lincoln lost the election. Two years later, however, he was elected President.

Many people in Jesus' time considered Him a loser. He lost many followers who started out with him. The people of his hometown, Nazareth, were offended at Him, and for a while He lost the support of His family. His being sentenced to the cross and His subsequent death and burial spelled out failure in very large letters.

But, that all changed on Easter Sunday! The Bible tells us by completing His work on the cross, down to dotting the last "i" and crossing the last "t", Jesus won the victory, and it wasn't a meaningless victory. It was one that changed the course for all humanity. It was a victory over sin, death, and the devil. The grave could not hold Him. Sin could not grip Him. And the devil could not keep Him down. 2000 years

later, we as Christians stake our entire future upon what Jesus won on that first Easter Sunday. Through faith in Jesus Christ, the grave cannot hold us. Sin cannot keep us in its grip and the devil cannot keep us down.

Does it matter? YES! The resurrection proclaims that God has triumphed over evil; that heaven has been opened; that Jesus is who He said He is; and that you and I who profess Him as our Savior will triumph too!

A blessed Easter to you!

CHRIST IS RISEN;
HE IS RISEN INDEED!

OSLC 2nd Annual Men's Retreat April 23-25

Sign up now for OSLC's Men's Retreat, happening this month at Shepherd's Hill at the Crossroads Retreat Center.

- Deepen in your walk with God
- Be challenged in your role as a godly man, husband or father
- Discover a group of men who will journey with you on the adventure called "Your Life!"
- Be inspired!

To find out more and to register, contact Pastor Krueger, paulk@srt.com or Vicar Rick Jones jonesr@csi.edu. You'll be glad you did!

The Lutheran Church Today:

What's the Difference?

Do you have questions about all the differences among Lutherans today? Do you come from a Lutheran background and are considering making OSLC your church home? Then Pastor Krueger's, "The Lutheran Church Today: What's the Difference?" is for you. Join us on Sunday night, April 25th as we look at these and other vital questions that face Lutheran Christians today. Find out the differences between the major Lutheran Church bodies, including the LCMS, ELCA and more! This class is also a part of the membership process for non-LCMS Lutherans to become members of OSLC. The one evening class starts at 6:00 p.m. on April 25th. Contact Pastor Krueger, paulk@srt.com, for more details or register by contacting the church office.

VICAR'S CORNER

While I am the vicar here at Our Savior Lutheran Church some of my responsibilities reside outside these walls. I also have obligations at the Minot campus of the Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch (DBGR). I thought I would take this opportunity to give you all a brief update on some of the activities that take place over there. I will begin with some background information and then go on to explain my roles at the ranch.

At the DBGR my responsibilities are mainly in cooperation with the Spiritual Life Director. The Spiritual Life Director at the ranch is responsible for providing residents with programming that clearly proclaims the gospel of Jesus Christ and fosters growth in living a Christian life. Upon arrival at the DBGR each resident is given a spiritual assessment. This assessment allows the Spiritual Life Director to begin cultivating a stronger relationship with the resident as well as provides information regarding the resident's level of religious involvement and extent of the resident's religious background. This information gathered from these assessments helps the Spiritual Life Office custom cater programming opportunities to the specific resident. Upon being discharged from the ranch, this assessment is repeated for the purposes of evaluating the success of the Spiritual Life program for the resident during their time at the DBGR.

With these assessments in mind, the Spiritual Life

programming at the ranch really breaks down into four main types of activities. The first are one-on-one visits between the residents and the Spiritual Life Director (although I will provide similar services from time to time). These are private and provided on a case by case basis. The next three activities are all events held amongst groups of residents, and for the most part this is where my responsibilities begin.

The second Spiritual Life activity for residents at the ranch is called Ranch Life Club. This is a monthly gathering, happening on a Saturday, open to all residents and staff of DBGR. During Ranch Life Club attendees participate in an activity or teaching based on some biblical idea or principal that is then presented in a very applicable way so they can use it in their daily life of faith. Topics in the past have included heaven, prayer, and godly living. The teaching activity is then followed by some physical activity such as an open gym or outside games. I have led Ranch Life in the past, but this event is usually handled by the Spiritual Life Director. The Third Spiritual Life activity available for residents at DBGR is Spiritual Life Group. This is a weekly event happening on Mondays and Tuesdays. These are mainly educational Bible study type events. The residents attend Spiritual Life Group with the other residents in their particular cottages. This typically results in groups of 5-20 individuals. I attend and help lead these groups every Monday and Tuesday evening from 4:00-7:00 p.m. Topics presented in the past for Spiritual Life Group have included the Gospel of John, respecting authority, and creation.

To be used in conjunction with the weekly Spiritual Life Groups, the Spiritual Life Director has asked me to prepare an audio recording of *The Picture Bible* to be played for the residents as they read along in printed copies of *The Picture Bible*. This project is being done to introduce each resident to the entire Bible over a series of 32 lessons this summer. We are hoping this becomes an ongoing program at the DBGR to help present every resident with the truth of God's Word and more specifically the saving power of the gospel.

The final major area of Spiritual Life programming available at the DBGR is Chapel. Chapel services happen every Thursday afternoon at 4:30 p.m. Chapel services are open for all residents and staff. Chapel is my main responsibility at the ranch. I organize and lead it every week. Chapel services have been a particular blessing for me as I am able to preach the gospel to the residents and staff on a weekly basis. I have been able to deliver many sermons at the ranch including a series on the Ten Commandments which was recently concluded. Chapel is also an outlet for many residents to participate in worship by

singing with the choir or reading lessons or any number of other worship activities. Chapel services at the DBGR are, in many cases, the closest thing residents will get to church attendance while at the ranch. It has been my pleasure to provide these services for all the residents at the ranch.

That is a pretty basic rundown of my activities at the DBGR so far. There are a few projects in the works that will get me a bit more involved, but as things stand now the above mentioned activities summarize my work at the ranch. These activities have given me much joy from my time at the ranch. The entire ministry over there is such a blessing for all the residents. I have never seen the Holy Spirit work such wonders as it does among the young people at the DBGR. Several blessings that have been my highlights thus far have been the three baptisms and three baptismal remembrances I have had the privilege to perform for the residents. One further highlight has been getting one particular resident into a continued confirmation/first communion instruction series with a local church. It has been a joy to equip her with the tools she needs to continue to receive the spiritual guidance and nourishment her faith needs.

I have relished my time teaching, preaching, and ministering at the ranch. It is truly a great enhancement of the vicarage experience. I hope and pray that your arrangement with the DBGR to share the vicar continues long into the future. It is a priceless learning opportunity that only benefits everyone involved. If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions about my role at the ranch or about the programs and services available at the ranch please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sola Deo Gloria
Vicar Rick Jones

STEPHEN MINISTRY

The Christian Alphabet Poem

Although things are not perfect,
Because of trial or pain,
Continue in thanksgiving.
Do not begin to blame.

Even when the times are hard,
Fierce winds are bound to blow,

God is forever able.
Hold on to what you know.

Imagine life without his love.
Joy would cease to be.
Keep thanking Him for all things
Love imparts to thee.

Move out of "Camp Complaining."
No weapon that is known
On earth can yield the power
Praise can do alone.

Quit looking at the future.
Redeem the time at hand.
Start every day with worship.
To "thank" is a command.

Until we see Him coming,
Victorious in the sky,
We'll run the race with gratitude
eXalting God most high.

Yes, there will be good times and yes, some will be bad,
but . . .
Zion waits in glory . . . where none is ever sad!

Author Unknown

→ MUSIC BEAT → SMALL GROUP AND VOLUNTEER MINISTRIES

“The Lord lives! Praise be to my Rock! Exalted be God
my Savior!”
Psalm 18:46

Music Ministries

The choirs of St. Mark's, St. Paul's and Our Savior Lutheran will be presenting a beautiful Easter cantata entitled *Who is This King* on Palm Sunday, March 28th at 2:30. Please join us at the Arvel Graving Theatre in Magic City Campus for the cantata and a time of fellowship to follow.

Holy Week services are as follows: April 1st and 2nd at 7:30 p.m. will be our Maundy Thursday and Good Friday worship services. These will be wonderful opportunities to help prepare your heart for the full experience of the joy of Easter. We will offer four worship services to celebrate Easter on April 4th: 6:30, 8:30, 9:45 and 11:00 a.m. The 6:30 and 8:30 services will be traditional communion worship services. 9:45 and 11:00 will be Praise and Worship services with no communion offered due to the large number of visitors. Communion will instead be offered on the third Sunday of the month, April 18th. I look forward to celebrating Christ's resurrection with you – see you in worship!

I'm still looking for brass players for our Easter services. You'll find a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall, or just give me a call at 852-6404. We'll have a quick practice on that Saturday before Easter to hand out music and run through the pieces. So pull out that old horn and start warming up!

Small Group Ministries

We have an exciting journey in store for you called **40 Days of Love**. Beginning April 18th, this six-week journey is all about relationships – and no one understands them better than Jesus. Based on an exhaustive study of what Jesus did and said about relationships, this forty-day journey will bring new health and richness to your marriage, family, friendships, and all the relationships in your life. For only a cost of \$20.00, you will receive a hardcover book entitled **The Relationship Principles of Jesus** and a **40 Days of Love** study guide. A teaching DVD for your small group will be provided at no cost. Would you be interested in being a part of a small group – either as a host or as a participant? Please sign up now on the forms provided in your worship service bulletin or at the table in the Fellowship Hall. You can also just give me a call at 852-6404 to find out more! So don't put it off – sign up now to be a small group host, or to join a small group and be a part of this congregation-wide campaign as we discover together a love that is patient, kind, forgiving, unselfish and always speaks the truth in love.

Okay – are you a woman between the ages of 18-105? By the time you are reading this, **A Taste of the Sweet Life**, a one-afternoon retreat on Saturday March 27th at 1:00 is probably over. Hopefully you grabbed this opportunity to get a "taste" of what's to come. This was just an "appetizer" for our two-day retreat called **Sweet Life Café**. We will head up to Shepherd's Hill at the CrossRoads on Friday, April 30 to help you satisfy your cravings for deeper

relationships with God and other women. Sweet Life Café will be a relational and personal experience where you will grow spiritually and discover ways to live out what you learn. Get these dates on your calendar now: **April 30-May 1**. Treat yourself to this special time just for YOU! (Hey men – this would be a great Mother's Day gift!)

Volunteer Ministries

Can you spare a little time on Sunday mornings between 10:45 and noon? The trustees are transitioning rooms from Sunday School set-up to LHLH set-up at the time. If you're able to lend a hand, just talk to one of the guys moving stuff around on Sunday mornings to see how you can help! Thanks!!

We also still need ushers and greeters for our worship services. Please see the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall. The friendly smiles of these folks make a BIG difference to guests and visitors – and the "regulars" enjoy it too!

Thank you to all who use their gifts and abilities in ministry here at OSLC. It takes many hands for things to happen – You are appreciated!!

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

Crosswalk

Good Friday Crosswalk will begin at 5:30 p.m. on April 2nd at Town and Country. Come join us as we witness to our community about the power of Jesus' death as we walk South Broadway to the church. Along the way, there will be various stations to reflect more deeply on what our Lord's passion means to us. It promises to be a "moving" event!

Easter Breakfast

The OSLC youth will be serving breakfast on Easter Sunday. Youth families, remember to bring your egg bakes, muffins and orange juice. Serving will begin after the sunrise service at approximately 7:30 a.m. and go until 11:00 a.m.

Attention Grades 4-6!

A Lock-In for grades four through six will be happening on Friday, April 16 beginning at 7:00 p.m. and ending Saturday morning at 8:00 a.m. Our focus will be on the **Armor of God** and promises to be a fun-filled night. Watch the youth bulletin board for more information. If you are able to help, please contact Pastor Voth.

Attention all grocery shoppers!! WE NEED your "WE CARE" MarketPlace Foods Receipts TODAY!!! This program will soon be coming to an end, but we have until April 3rd to collect receipts. When you are buying those Easter dinner groceries or when you make any 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 by April 3rd. It's that easy, but we need you to do it TODAY!

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.

"Hero Headquarters: Where Kids Join Forces with God" will be our VBS theme this year. Join us evenings Sunday, June 13th through Thursday, June 17th for an amazing, fun-filled time to learn about Jesus. We will have activities for ages preschool through 8th grade. Volunteer heroes are greatly needed to assist our junior heroes as the

journey through the *Amazing Bible Heroes*, *Power Projects*, *Action Games*, *Super Snacks*, and *KidViews* movies.

Other items that we will need will be pillowcases, decorative streamers, balloons, and anything that can enhance our Hero's Headquarters. Please consider having your small group or board host an evening meal to power-up our heroes as they begin their Bible adventure.

Keep your eyes open for more "Hero Sightings" to discover more ways you can be a hero to our children! For more information, contact Crystal Voth (715-554-2313), Cindy Bitz, or any member of the Board of Education.

CARING FOR ONE ANOTHER

Are you looking for a small group Bible study to participate in? "Caring For One Another" meets Tuesday afternoons at 2:00 p.m. in the church Fellowship Hall. This is open to anyone. We do ask that you please refrain from using scented products so that people with health issues can attend.

We are currently doing "One Page Bible Studies" but we also participate in the church wide campaigns such as the "**40 Days of Love**" that will be coming up later this month.

Many thanks once again for all the help setting up, cleaning up, bringing treats, etc. We appreciate each one of you!

In Christ's Love,
Duane and Clara Schell
838-4498

FOREVER YOUNG

Are you in the 50+ age group (We don't check ID's!!) and looking for a great fellowship opportunity? Come to the church on the third Friday of each month for Forever

Young! We start out with a potluck meal promptly at 6:00 p.m. followed by a program.

In March we were blessed to have the Voth family share with us for a "Greet and Meet." We had a wonderful time!

Thank you for your participation! We love getting together and are so grateful to all the willing hands to help with the set up and clean up. Special thanks to Theresa Schock for providing the door prize in March!

See you on April 16th at 6:00 p.m. as we enjoy another evening of great food, fun and fellowship!

Spring Joy,
Duane and Clara Schell
838-4498

SEWING DISCIPLES

Join us on Monday, April 12th and 26th 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!

Where did LWR Quilts and Kits go in 2009? 1,271 tons worth \$13.5 million to 742,560 people in 22 different countries!! What an awesome ministry to be a part of! Look at these numbers for items shipped:

- 378,050 Quilts
- 231,360 School Kits
- 93,111 Health Kits
- 25,875 Sewing Kits
- 68,890 Layettes
- 33,750 Pounds of Soap

If you would like to be involved in this incredible mission project, there is a desperate need for quilts and health kits at this time due to the earthquakes in Haiti and Chile. The Sewing Disciples are trying to get as many quilts tied as possible before we ship them in May. They would love to have you come and join them! We need more "hands"!

If you would like to contribute toward the health kits, each kit contains the following items:

- Hand Towel (dark color preferred)
- Washcloth
- Bath size bar of soap in original wrapping
- Adult size toothbrush

- Wide tooth comb
- Nail clippers with attached file
- 6 Band Aids

We currently have LOTS of band aids, but all other items are needed. Please bring all donations to the church office. If they are "dropped off" when the office is closed, please leave a note indicating the items are for LWR Health Kits. Thank you!

FROM THE CHURCH RECORDS

Baptism

March 14, 2010

Grace Harper Burdick

Daughter of Zachary & Lindsey Burdick

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

| | |
|---------|---|
| April 1 | Tyler Thull |
| April 2 | Clarice Bernsdorf Jeff Gilseth Shawnta James Aiden Cree |
| April 3 | Sheree Mertz Jonathan Coyle Chelsea Donovan |
| April 4 | Carolyn Stair Mary Downie McKay Erickson Rebecca Ramirez Allison Demke Jetta Awalt |
| April 5 | Nichole Carlson |
| April 6 | Maurice Francis Guy Gadue |
| April 7 | Jerel Schweitzer Kendra Williams |

April 8 Ray Esquibel
 Sarah Potts
 Terry Dosch
 Cody Orvik
 Kali Koetter
 April 9 John Hagenstein
 Teya Rust
 Laken Mikkelson
 April 10 Donna Strand
 Amber Tompkins
 Nevaeh McHenry
 April 11 Bonita Donovan
 Shelby Stein
 April 12 Terry Wheeling
 Paige Vetter
 Alexis Benno
 Teagen Erie
 Rylan Plesuk
 April 13 Gaylne Weeks
 Austin Hahn
 Abigail Schaar
 April 14 Dennis Oothoudt
 Emma Eaves
 Gavin Voth
 April 15 Rayanna Temples
 Trisha Boyeff
 Cedric Rice
 April 16 John Rensvold
 April 17 LouAnne Schell
 Jessica Rosin
 Joseph Rensvold
 Kenli Graham
 April 18 Nolan Jungling
 April 19 Ashley Bergstedt
 April 20 Marilyn Nelson
 Amanda Olson
 Brady Nelson
 Shane Anderson
 Chandler Simonson
 April 21 Kimberly Haugen
 Shaun Uleberg
 Taylor Olson
 April 22 Douglas Voeller
 April 23 Carrie Tvedt
 Paula Mikkelson
 Sheyanne Urwiller
 April 24 Paul Ziolkowski, Jr.
 Brenden Tvedt
 April 25 Carol Dahly

James Ness
 Tara Williams
 Sydney Temples
 April 26 Allan Meyers
 April 27 Paul Ogren
 Todd Larson
 April 28 Bonnie Rennich
 April 29 David Richard
 Kevin Dahly
 Brent Mattson
 Jason Bissett
 April 30 Kayla Orvik
 Mesa Cox

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

April 2 Todd & Janice Nelson
 April 5 Ron & Carol Tribitt
 April 6 Peter & Carma McLaughlin
 April 7 Curtis & Sandra Williams
 April 7 Greg & Jennifer Combs
 April 7 Brett & Lisa Buican
 April 8 Shawn & Melissa Kramer
 April 9 Gayle & Katherine Fimreite
 April 11 Mark & Kim Haugen
 April 16 Tim & Cynthia McKay
 April 18 Chuck & Joette Beck
 April 21 Gregg & Brenda Orvik
 April 21 Nathan & Kimberly Vetter
 April 22 Ron & Kedrin Armenta
 April 25 Michael & Tawna Simonson
 April 27 Warren & Carolyn Gessner

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Serving Away From Home

Amelia Hunter (Betsy Jones' Sister)
 Matthew Voeller

Noel Allen

Battling Cancer

Larry Anderson
Tammi Benno
ElRita Nelson
Bill Reum
Gloria Schmidt
Jean Tohm
Carol Tribitt
Archie Zahursky

Our mortgage, utilities, payroll, curriculum, supplies, etc. are all a part of our General Fund expenses. Just a sample of a few of the every month expenses:

| | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| Mortgage | \$3,746.00 |
| Copier Lease | \$ 286.36 |
| Water Bill | \$ 75.90 |
| MDU | \$ 964.22 |
| Verendrye | \$ 806.00 |
| Waste Management | \$ 112.08 |
| SRT | \$ 290.65 |
| Total | \$6,281.21 |

The above bills do not include any payroll or programs to operate (Sunday School, KFC, Membership Classes, Small Groups, Confirmation, Discovery Classes, Worship Supplies, etc.) just basic building and utilities to keep the doors open. The Lord has blessed us beyond measure with a beautiful facility, but like everything else, it costs money to keep it open and sometimes it helps to realize just what some of those bills are.

Thank you for your faithful support of the mission and ministry of Our Savior Lutheran Church. We look forward to continuing with the work the Lord has called us to— together!

ATTENDANCE AND OFFERING AVERAGES

Attendance:

February Average: 330
March Average: 379

Offering (General Fund):

February Average:
\$7,251.12/Week
Designated Fund Average:
\$25.00/Week

March Average as of March 21st:
\$10,822.42/Week
Designated Fund Average:
\$141.66/Week

Children's Sunday School:

February Average: 67
March Average: 58

Our General Fund Budget for 2010 is \$445,831.00. If you divide that amount by 52 weeks it equals \$8,573.67 that we hope to receive in general fund contributions each week to meet our budget goal.

As of the end of March or 13 weeks into the year, our goal for the General Fund is to have received \$111,457.71 (\$8,573.67 multiplied by 13 weeks). We have received \$98,366.01 as of March 23, 2010 and we have one more Sunday left in March.

APRIL USHERS

8:30 a.m.

Darrell Bernsdorf
Dennis Krueger
Craig Eraas
Jack Stack

9:45 a.m.

Ushers Needed!!

11:00 a.m.

Ken Lewis
Sharon Ellis
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!