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*The Newsletter*  
*December 2009*

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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 • Rick Jones, Vicar
- Bonnie Rennich, Director of Music & Congregational Ministries • Peggy Trondson, Administrative Secretary/Editor

## PASTOR'S MESSAGE

### What Is It Worth To You?

*"Behold, I bring YOU good news of great joy, which shall be for ALL people."  
Luke 2:10*

In the top drawer of my dresser I have a small box that safely stores one of my most prized possessions. It's a pocket knife made in Germany over 157 years ago. Forty years ago, I was a nine year old little boy. My grandfather pulled this knife out of his pocket and handed it to me, saying, "Paul, this knife belonged to my grandpa and was given to me when I was nine years old. Now I'm giving it to you. If you take good care of it, some day you can give it to your grandson when he's nine years old." To my nine year old mind it was like the passing of a sacred trust, and now for forty years I have been preparing for the day when I will be able to carry out that promise and give it to my grandson. To the casual observer that probably makes no sense. It's just an old knife. But to me, both the knife, and the sacred trust that goes with it, is worth more than just about any possession I have.

To the casual observer, the things we do together as the family of Our Savior Lutheran Church probably make little

sense. They can't figure out what would be so important to us that we would be willing to invest our time, energy and money like we do. And yet, as a baptized child of God, you and I understand that we have been given a great gift and a sacred trust. The gift is from our Heavenly Father. It's the gift of a Savior, God's answer to a broken world. And the trust is to take that gift to a world in need. And, now more than ever, our world is in need! Think of what our children are facing today. It's more than you and I had to face. Then think about what THEIR children will face! What will the world be like then? Where will they get the answers to life's most difficult questions if we don't pass it on to our children today? Where will they find the hope that they will need when the brokenness of the world crashes in on their lives? What will carry them through when it's THEIR last earthly breath? Or THEIR last earthly moment? Ours is the sacred trust to bring to THEM the "good news of great joy" that a Savior came for them, and that in following Christ they have real life – now and forever!

What is that worth to you? Is it worth your time and energy for a child to know Jesus? Is it worth your offerings and tithes to bring godly hope to a teen in crisis? Is it worth your personal sacrifice to see a young adult become a man or woman of faith and pass that life-giving faith on to the next generation? Is it worth your time, your energy, your treasure to see the next generation embrace Jesus with all their heart and walk into heaven? Thinking of this great gift

and the godly trust that has been given to me, I was compelled to personally step up and take this sacred trust to heart.

In 2007, my wife and I doubled our giving because we believed with all our heart that God would touch hearts and lives through the expanded ministries of Our Savior Lutheran Church. We were not disappointed! Look at the positive results of the vicarage program and the ministry of additional staff. Now, for 2010, my wife and I are committing ourselves once again to a financial increase. We are going beyond the 10% tithe and are committing ourselves to giving the first 15% of our income back to God in our regular Sunday offering. If you want to put that into perspective, it's about the same each month as our house payment. I've shared this publicly, both on Sunday and now in this newsletter, not because I want recognition, but because I can think of no stronger way to say that "It's worth it!" I believe that God is going to change lives. I believe that God is going to touch hearts. I believe that the Gospel of Christ is the only hope that will satisfy the restless searching of the next generation. I believe that through the work of this once tiny little church, God is going to do big things as He brings people to saving faith and then to heaven. Is that worth it to me? More than life itself! Is it worth it to you? Only you can decide.

2010 will be one of the most life-changing years yet! We'll open a Child Development Center January 4<sup>th</sup> that will bring Christ to the next generation. We'll take youth and young adult ministries to the next level of excellence as we invest in a second pastor. His job will be to make Christ come ALIVE for a new generation. Picture Sunday School, KFC, Confirmation, High School programs and more, all becoming more effective in connecting young hearts to Christ. We'll invest in our leadership as seven OSLC leaders will complete the ND District's "Excell!" leadership training program this spring. We'll continue training the next generation of pastors through the Vicarage Program and our partnership with the Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch. We'll intentionally seek to deepen faith and connect lives as we recommit ourselves to being people who are growing in God's Word through personal Bible study, small groups, regular worship, and more! 2010 will be a year that we step out in faith – a year that I challenge YOU to step out in faith with me and help make it happen! We're making bold financial decisions to make this happen – to the tune of a \$400,000 budget! (That's the first time that's happened for us!) But we're ready! The rewards are in front of us! And we ask you to help!

Is it worth it? Some might say it's crazy! Someone, somewhere, is questioning the wisdom of their pastor giving back as much as they pay each month for their home! It is crazy! As crazy as keeping a knife for 40 years! But that gift and that sacred trust are a matter of the heart. They're worth it! The same thing is true for me now! That's how much I believe in YOUR kids growing in faith, in YOUR kids loving and following Christ Jesus, in YOUR children and grandchildren being in heaven. I love this church. I love the people here. And I love what we're doing together. That's how much it's worth to ME. I challenge you to say, "That's how much it's worth to ME as well!"

On that first Christmas the angels announced a precious gift and a sacred trust. *"Behold, I bring YOU good news of great joy, which shall be for ALL people."* We are a part of something great. Join me as we prepare for the day when we will pass that precious gift and sacred trust on to others.

In the Master's service,  
Pastor Krueger

#### **New OSLC Assistant Pastor Called**

Rev. Daniel Voth, from Deer Park, Wisconsin, has been extended the call to become the new Assistant Pastor for Youth and Young Adult Ministries here at Our Savior Lutheran Church. Pastor Voth is married with four children and is a 1999 graduate from Concordia Seminary in Ft. Wayne, IN. He is currently serving two small congregations in Deer Park, and Forest, Wisconsin. He enjoys camping with his family, cycling, playing bass guitar, and has been active in the local soccer programs. His wife, Crystal, is completing a degree in Art and is currently student teaching. While they love the people of their current congregations, they are excited about receiving the call to serve at Our Savior. They ask that we prayerfully ask that God would give them a clear direction for this major choice in their life.

#### **Class Times Shortened For Confirmation Classes**

The regular schedule for Confirmation Classes will be altered slightly during the month of December because of the Advent/Christmas season. Students will still start at 6:00 p.m. with classes released at 7:30 p.m. so that students (and adults) can attend the Advent events.

**Christmas Open-House  
at Pastor Krueger's  
December 20<sup>th</sup>**

You are invited to Pastor Krueger and Julie's home on December 20<sup>th</sup> as they invite you to be their guests for their annual Christmas Open House. There will be lots of warmth, friendship, along with a host of wonderful Christmas goodies to savor! Please accept this invitation and "drop in" on Sunday afternoon, December 20<sup>th</sup> from 2-5:30 p.m. We look forward to having you at our home this Christmas!

## VICAR'S CORNER

### Deuteronomy 26:9

"He brought us to this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey."

As I stumbled upon this verse the other day I began thinking about the promises God makes to His people. It occurred to me that God's promises always have some kind of salvation attached to them. This one is about having a "land" for the people to call their own. They have salvation from the harsh living environment of wandering in the wilderness.

But there is more to this promise than just the land. The land is described to have an abundance of "milk and honey." So what do these things have to do with salvation? How do milk and honey play into God's greater plan of salvation? To answer these questions we must realize what milk and honey do for us.

Milk is a very valuable source of nourishment. When we are first born, milk gives us everything we need as far as nutrition. This one food source is all the sustenance we need. As we grow, milk continues to sustain us. Milk provides the basic nutrients we need to produce strong bones and a healthy body. Milk is a continued blessing of life sustaining nourishment.

Honey, on the other hand, is not a source of all the nourishment we need. Honey is sweet—it tastes good and has some nutritional value but you could not survive on honey alone. However, honey has one thing going for it that no other food does. Honey does not spoil. Honey is the only food that does not go bad. Archaeologists find honeycombs in the Egyptian pyramids that are thousands of years old. The honey in these combs is crystallized but when heated it is just as good as new. People have eaten honey that is thousands of years old and it is still good!

Now that we know a little about milk and honey we can relate these two food stuffs to some of God's blessings. Remember God's promises are attached to salvation in some way. In this case food provides salvation from starvation. We need food to stay alive. This is obvious, but I believe we can look at these two types of food that have been attached to God's promise of land in a way that provides more insight into our salvation.

Our salvation—that is our forgiveness from sins—was won for us on the cross by Christ. But how do we get that salvation? How does God distribute forgiveness? The answer is with the sacraments—Baptism and the Lord's Supper. The sacraments are the places where God promised salvation can be found. I think we can correlate milk and honey to the sacraments.

*Bear with me here.*

The Lord's Supper is like milk. It repeatedly gives us the nourishment we need to continue to grow and sustain our lives (our saving faith). It is a habitual reception of God Himself as Christ's body and blood are present in the sacrament. The Lord's Supper continually nourishes us with the forgiveness of our sins. We do it over and over throughout our lives as a continual source of God's grace—our nourishment.

Honey is like Baptism. It never goes bad. Baptism is God's sweet promise of salvation. As Peter tells us, "Baptism now saves you." (1 Peter 3:21). This is a promise of God that never goes bad. This is why we do not need to be re-baptized. God's promises are faithful—they stand forever. Likewise, God's promise in Baptism never goes bad. It is a onetime adoption into God's family. This is great news! But why do we provide sponsors with Baptism? Why is there also an aspect of ongoing instruction and teaching attached to Baptism?

Baptism is like honey. It is a sweet promise that never goes bad, but because of our sinful nature we often need more nourishment than God's honey provides. We need to be constantly reminded of God's promise. We need to have our sins forgiven over and over. Baptism does save us, but our sinful nature causes us to walk away from God's promise. Let me stress that point: *We walk away from God, He never walks away from us*—His promise never goes bad.

This is how God's promises work together. Milk and honey (The Lord's Supper and Baptism) work together to deliver God's salvation to us. Baptism is God's ever present promise of salvation to us. And what could be sweeter than salvation? The Lord's Supper is our continued nourishment

of God's forgiveness that keeps us growing and sustained in our faith. God truly does promise us salvation. One faithful promise of grace for all time—Baptism, and one faithful promise of ongoing nourishment—The Lord's Supper. God's promises surely are trustworthy because the promised land of faith certainly is flowing with both milk and honey.

Vicar Rick Jones

— MUSIC BEAT —  
SMALL GROUP AND  
VOLUNTEER MINISTRIES

### Music Ministries

*"O, come to my heart Lord Jesus.  
There is room in my heart for Thee."*

With all the hustle and bustle of Christmas right around the corner, it's calming to recall those words. With our hearts full of the joy and excitement of Christmas, let's remember to keep Christ at the very center of our hearts and minds, especially during this season. There are awesome opportunities in December to help us keep our focus on the upcoming celebration of Jesus' birth. Wednesday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> is our first Advent worship service. December 9<sup>th</sup> will be a Christmas hymn sing and December 16<sup>th</sup> is the Children's Christmas Program. Each of these Wednesday worship services will begin at 7:30 p.m. Then on Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup>, eleven AM will present a Christmas concert at 7:00 p.m. And our beautiful Christmas Eve services will be at 5:00 and 7:00 p.m. Come and join your church family as we celebrate the eve of the Savior's birth.

Here's an invitation to those of you who love organ music. St. Paul's in Minot has just purchased a new organ and will be holding an Organ Dedication Service on Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 p.m. Guest organists are Peggy Bartunek and John Green. Organists from St. Paul's, Peggy Hilson and Beth Sorenson, will also be playing. It will be a time of worship including several musical presentations with a fellowship time to follow. For additional information, please see the poster on the Fellowship Hall bulletin board.

### Small Group Ministries

If it seems like Christmas has become nothing more than a source of emotional and financial stress . . . If somewhere along the line you lost "the reason for the season" . . . then you have something to look forward to this month. Christmas really is the best news you could get. In our Sunday sermon series, "The Purpose of Christmas," you will hear how God designed Christmas to meet your three deepest needs and how understanding and receiving God's three Christmas gifts to you will transform your life forever. A weekly Bible study will be available on the web (oslc-minot.org) or in hard copy form at the hospitality table in the Fellowship Hall. These studies can be done in a small group or individually.

We have a new small group Bible study meeting at the church on Mondays at noon. We are studying hymns and the scripture on which they are based. Bring your lunch and come and join us!

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 here at the church, so come and help with the formation of this new ministry group. Check out the article elsewhere in this newsletter for more information.

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

Thank you to all who attended the Ministry Fair on November 1<sup>st</sup>, and to the people who manned the information tables. It's always exciting to see the various ministries and the people who so passionately serve in them. Jesus commands us to "Love our neighbors as ourselves," and serving His people is how we accomplish that. We have a beautiful example in Jesus, the servant. How blessed we are to be a part of this church family, where there are so many opportunities to use the gifts God has given us!

I'll close with selected verses from some of the songs we find in the Bible that are a part of the Christmas story. May you join your voice with theirs this Christmas season.

#### *Mary's Song*

*My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior. . . for the Mighty One has done great things for me – holy is His name.*

*Luke 1:47, 49*

#### *Zechariah's Song:*

*Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because He has come to his people and redeemed them. He has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David . . . to rescue us from the hand of our enemies, and to enable us to serve him without fear in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.*

*Luke 1: 68, 69, 74, 75*

***The Angel's Song:***

*Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.*

*Luke 2:14*

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."*

*"We got dirt !!!" This was my shout of joy this week through the halls of Little Hands, Loving Hearts. Scripture encourages us to believe that God will deliver on His promise to "move mountains" for us when we entrust Him with our needs and concerns. That is exactly what He is doing for our child development center! Let me share with you a few of the "mountains" He has moved to prepare the way for our opening on January 4, 2010.*

*We have been networking for almost a month for dirt in which to create the small grassy hill needed beneath our "I Spy" observation deck. God moved the heart of Mr. Joel Feist of Real Builders to share the dirt from his construction site for the Candlewood Suites just across the street from*

*OSLC! Now, we can complete the focal activity center of our natural playscape!*

*The monumental task of finding qualified staff with a heart for our mission has been a real concern. Again, we placed our needs in God's hands and He has directed the most incredible people to apply! Karla Ross has joined us as Supervisor, and we can't wait to see what a blessing our staff will be to the children and families we will serve AND what a blessing LHLH CDC will be to our staff! It's all about connections and relationships, isn't it?*

*We're still scaling "Mt. Renovation," but hope to have the majority of the interior renovations completed by the first week in December. Dave Niess and his work crew of OSLC volunteers have just done an outstanding job! Thank-you to all of you for the hours and skills you've so freely shared! Our walkway to the east side has recently been completed as well thanks to Jason Proper and Greg Marshall, and we received lumber from Tom Vera, and ..and...and. God bless all who have helped along the way!*

*You're all invited to a dedication of LHLH CDC on Sunday, Jan. 3, 2010 following the 11:00 a.m. service. We want to take time to give God thanks and praise for fulfilling this outreach mission ministry of our church. Please plan on joining us. Your prayers and support have been essential to our success!*

*Homemade lefse will be available for purchase on Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup>. The TFJ (Trolling For Jesus) small group Bible study group will be taking orders in the fellowship hall at the Little Hands, Loving Hearts booth. Proceeds will be used to purchase material for the prayer blankets they make and distribute.*

Forward in faith,  
Terry Voeller, CDA  
LHLH CDC Director

**FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH**

*Thanks to those who hosted YOUTH ENCOUNTER—CAPTIVE FREE members on November 6<sup>th</sup>! We appreciated the skits, music, and fellowship that Captive Free shared. It was great to see familiar faces and new faces from other area churches.*

*Thanksgiving is over, but the tasty meal and desserts are still fresh in our minds. Thanks to all the youth for donating pies for the annual "Thankful Baking Pie Sale". Another big*

thank you to the NUTS members who came out and sold the pies! And finally, thank you to OSLC members for supporting youth events!

Calling all High School Students!!! HIGH SCHOOL LOCK-IN December 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>, 8:00 p.m.-8:00 a.m. at OSLC! Sign up on the youth bulletin board in the fellowship hall by Wednesday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> and pick up a "Registration Form, Rules for Lock-In, and Permission Slip" and "Info Sheet." It is going to be a great night to hang out with fellow Christian friends, have some fun, grow in faith, and talk about how God is a part of your life every day. Bring a friend! How important it is to nurture and equip our young adult high schoolers, our future leaders, in a safe and fun environment.

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 even 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 is that easy! Thanks to those who have already brought in receipts...what a great way to donate with so little effort.

Betsy Jones

### ALL ABOUT YOU(TH)

Tayton Kramer

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

*My favorite things to do are  
rope, play football and basketball.*

*My favorite memory at OSLC was  
the youth ski trip.*

*When I grow up, I want to be a carpenter.*

*One person that I admire is my uncle Kurt.*

*If I could pick ONE event for our youth to do,  
it would be to have a Lock-In.*

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

*Tayton lives in Towner, is homeschooled,  
and in the 11<sup>th</sup> grade.*

We hope you enjoyed this new addition to the "Fountain of Youth" section of this newsletter. A big thanks to Tayton Kramer for being the first "All About You(th)" profile. We plan to introduce a new OSLC youth each month. See you next month!

### ANGEL TREE MINISTRY

Don't forget to check out the "Angel Tree" located in the fellowship hall for your opportunity to bless a child this Christmas season. Each "angel" will list a gift request. As you wrap the purchased gift, make sure you put the "angel" on the outside of the package so we know who to deliver the gift to! Angel Tree gifts **must be returned to the church as soon as possible--no later than December 6<sup>th</sup>**. This is earlier than past years, but we have to start deliveries earlier this year.

There are several ways to help with Angel Tree Ministry such as wrapping gifts, delivering gifts, etc. If you would like to be a part of this ministry, please contact Evelyn Hildebrand for more information at 839-3431.

### STEPHEN MINISTRY

#### We Thank You, Lord

So often, when we're alone with our thoughts,  
We feel Your presence enter us.  
In times of sorrow, you divide our grief  
by sharing it.  
In times of joy, You show us how to radiate the love You  
so freely give.  
You bring warmth when we are cold,  
And understanding when we are sad.

When we need to escape and open up to peaceful things,  
We turn to Your Word,  
Knowing it will bring peace and happiness into our lives.

For the harmony You bring  
into our lives,  
For Your understanding of our needs,  
For the joy You bring to our hearts,  
For the comfort You bring to us,  
For the way You are our friend,  
For the many ways that You've allowed us to have You in  
our lives,

We thank you, Lord.

by Cindy Foster  
Stephen Ministries St. Louis

With Thanksgiving upon us, I wanted to share this prayer and offer up my thanks to God for bringing together the Stephen Ministry Team at OSLC and instilling in us, through Your Word and love, the desire to serve in a way that can bring comfort, understanding and joy to others.

Happy Thanksgiving!  
God's blessings to you!  
Penny Brandt

#### CARING FOR ONE ANOTHER

We are having a great time together studying God's Word with our one page lessons. Thank you to all who help in your special ways—by coming and supporting this ministry, all your help in set up and clean up, taking turns bringing treats, your input in sharing answers and prayer requests, praise reports and Bible reading. You are what makes this work. Please watch the bulletins for the times we meet. We meet on Tuesdays at 2:00 p.m. for an hour. That way those who need to pick up children from school can do so. We will not meet December 22<sup>nd</sup> and December 29<sup>th</sup>. We will resume again on January 5<sup>th</sup>.

We wish you a safe and enjoyable Christmas.

Love In Christ,  
Duane and Clara Schell

838-4498

#### SEWING DISCIPLES

The Sewing Disciples will be meeting on Monday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m. We will "hit it hard" again starting in January. We are busy working on quilts, but we are also working on health kits at this time. We are in need of several items to complete the health kits including wide tooth combs, nail clippers (with an attached file), and bath size soap. All items must be new. If you are interested in donating any of these items, please drop them off in the church office.

#### FOREVER YOUNG

Forever Young will not be meeting during the month of December. We will meet again on Friday, January 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. for a potluck. What should our program be in January? Do you have any ideas? Would anyone like to volunteer?

Our October gathering was special and the November meeting with our thanks to all who came. We want to say a special thank you to the "Chew Tones" for the entertainment.

We so enjoy you, and pray you all have a safe and special Thanksgiving. We pray December with all the goings on is special for you. Remember that "in all things we are to give thanks." Sometimes in our past Bible studies that topic was discussed, and sometimes it is hard to do. "To think is to thank."

Thank you for everything and your help and support.

Christmas peace,  
Duane and Clara Schell  
838-4498

#### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Dec. 2

Yvonne Stack  
Joan Bailey

Dec. 3 Chad Thompson  
 Adelyn Magnuson  
 Susan Saltsman  
 Julie Krueger  
 Korena Sperling  
 Tori Francis  
 Hannah Erie  
 Shaley McNally  
 Charlize O'Connor  
 Dec. 4 Jan Haugen  
 Wade Erie  
 Austin Olson  
 Mason Morin  
 Dec. 5 Andrew Rennich  
 Dec. 6 Maxim Hall  
 Dec. 7 Preston Harper  
 Jack Johnson  
 Dec. 8 Cynthia Bitz  
 Dec. 9 Van Tvedt  
 Dec. 11 Kelly Wetzel  
 Stefanie Williamson  
 Chris Berdahl  
 Leah Haugen  
 Dec. 12 Amber Benham  
 Rachel Mattson  
 Logan Caudill  
 Dec. 13 Richard Whorley  
 Warren Gessner  
 Max Rosin  
 Nickolas Saunders  
 Zackary Olson  
 Dec. 15 Nancy Wegenast  
 Kelly Hayhurst  
 Samantha Podoll  
 Jurnee Rust  
 Dec. 16 Tammi Benno  
 Zell Harvey  
 Dec. 17 Megan Klebe  
 Adrian Coetzee  
 Dec. 18 Daniel Wenzel  
 Brett Buican  
 Cheryl Walsh  
 Melissa Fimreite  
 Amanda Fimreite  
 Greta Beck  
 Dec. 19 Natalie Eraas  
 Dec. 20 Dionna Dickens  
 Todd Hulse  
 Brent Detlaff

Dec. 21 Steven Schaar  
 Marty Hoskin  
 Adam Moody  
 Emily Steenstrup  
 Bridger Uleberg  
 Dec. 22 Viola Fink  
 Brittany Erdman  
 Darby Ness  
 Dec. 23 Richard Tohm  
 Jessica Lucas  
 Dec. 24 Laurie Sickler  
 Shelley Corbin  
 Michael Simonson  
 Stephanie O'Neill  
 Dec. 25 David Krueger  
 Parker Kramer  
 Dec. 26 Nancy Graham  
 Heather Olson  
 Dec. 27 Vicki Steinke  
 Laurel Olson  
 Preston Stagl  
 Gavin Tobey  
 Dec. 28 Linda Gray  
 Steve Erdman  
 Richard Whorley  
 Erik Orvik  
 Melaynee Tohm  
 Seth Roedocker  
 Mason Juma  
 Dec. 30 Robin Erdman  
 Michael Deplazes  
 Carlee Metcalf  
 Dec. 31 Andy Azure  
 Brenda Staehr  
 Jody Demars

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

Dec. 2 Dennis & Jenelle Krueger  
 Dec. 2 Jason & Jodie Overton  
 Dec. 5 Andy & Lynette Azure  
 Dec. 23 Dennis & Betty Oothoudt

Dec. 23 Rodney & Margie Hair  
Dec. 23 James & Lisa Potts  
Dec. 27 Charles & Becky Gage  
Dec. 30 Kelly & MaLaura Sorensen

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Serving Away From Home

Scott Howe  
Blake Hunter  
Marcus Poyer  
Matthew Schmitz  
Chad Schell  
Matthew Voeller

FROM THE  
CHURCH RECORDS

Wedding

November 14, 2009  
Jason Edward Haugen  
and  
Ashley Jo Aberle

LADIES' CHRISTMAS DINNER

Don't miss out on the Annual Ladies' Christmas Dinner!! It will be held on Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup>. We will have a time of fellowship starting at 5:30 p.m. followed by a potluck meal at 6:00 p.m.

If you would like to participate, we will have a \$10 gift-exchange—one for the "adult" ladies and a separate one for the "younger" girls (6<sup>th</sup> grade and older).

If you participated in the "Secret Pal" program this year, "she" will be "revealed" at our party! You won't want to miss out on all the fun! Hope to see you there!

ATTENDANCE AND OFFERING AVERAGES

Attendance:

October Average: 373  
November Average: 341 (so far)

Offering (General Fund):

October Average:  
\$6,434.75/Week  
Designated Fund Average:  
\$849.06/Week

November Average: (so far)  
\$8,690.97/Week

Designated Fund Average:  
\$32.66/Week

Children's Sunday School:

October Average: 77  
November Average: 81

2010 GIVING ENVELOPES

The 2010 giving envelopes will be mailed out about the middle of December. **Do not use them until January 1, 2010** as we have to change records in our computer system first. However, at that point we would love to have you use them. It saves our "counters" a lot of work and time when you use the envelopes.

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

NON-PERISHABLE  
FOOD COLLECTION

It's time for our annual food drive for those less fortunate in our community! We will be collecting non-perishable food items starting Sunday, November 29<sup>th</sup> through Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup>. Items may be dropped off at the church in the designated boxes located in the fellowship hall.

Thank you in advance for participating in this mission outreach project!

- "Whatever the surprises of the future, Jesus will never be surpassed."

--Ernest Renan

- "The mystery of the humanity of Christ, that he sunk himself into our flesh, is beyond all human understanding."  
--Martin Luther

## 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.

## 2010 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

At our Semi Annual Voter's Meeting held on November 15, 2009 our board for 2010 was voted upon. Thank you to each and every one who served this past year. Some terms were completed and others renewed. Following is a list of those newly elected as well as those who continue to fulfill their terms to serve our congregation in 2010. Please keep them in your prayers as they provide leadership for our church family.

**President:** David Niess  
**Vice President:** Tom Vera  
**Secretary:** Jolene Lewis  
**Treasurer:** David Hance

### Board Members At Large

Dennis Krueger, Angela Vera, Patrick Donovan and Kevin Sickler

### Board of Elders

Curtis Hahn, Michael Orvik,  
Shawn Kramer, Rick Melchert,  
Wayne A. Johnson, Steve Erdman,  
Joel Howard and Ed Haugen

### Board of Education

Joan Hance, Joyce Goodvin,  
Marilyn Eaves, Tanya Cowart,  
Kim Haugen and Cindy Bitz

### Board of Youth Ministry

Brent Detlaff, Ashley Bergstedt,  
Karla Yates, Carrie Tvedt,  
Kristie Zolondek and Amy Krueger

### Board of Trustees

Gregory Marshall, Shawn Benham,  
Kurt Hauf, Eric Poppinga,  
John Walker, Dan Saunders, Paul Dodd, Van Tvedt, Mark  
Haugen, Tom Hauf, Phil Cowart, Jim Sanderson  
and Rudy Steinke