

The Messenger

Vol. 56, Issue 2

FEBRUARY

2009

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

GATHERED FOR GOOD

3022 W. Wisconsin Avenue

Milwaukee, WI 53208-3950

Tel: 414-342-5252

Fax: 414-342-5454

"A Church Where God's Diversity Works"



OUR SAVIOR'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH

FROM PASTOR BARBARA:

2009 will be a year of Healing and Wellness for Our Savior's. The theme stems from the sense that we often think of health as how we are when we are not sick. When we are struck by illness, mental stress, are emotionally overwhelmed, or under spiritual malaise, we usually work to restore ourselves to where we were. For many of us it stops there.

We seldom see health as a possibility for growth beyond this neutral point. However, there is a limitless range of health that can be reached in all of these categories. We can, for instance, become healthier by becoming more physically fit. We can exercise, improve our diet, and take more safety precautions in driving etc. These are well known wellness steps.

Less often thought about is our mental, emotional and spiritual health and well-being. If "things" are going along at a reasonable level of "okayness" we tend not to do anything to improve. Yet, there is so much we can do to move us farther up the scale of wellness toward wholeness. We can begin with improvement in our relationships - with people and with God. Forgiveness of others, or a cleansing of the burdens of guilt that we carry, is a beginning. However, there is more of which we may want to rid ourselves.

Cont. p. 3...

CHILI DUMP!
Come to a Warm
Winter Gathering!
Enjoy games

Watch "The Making
of Milwaukee"

Bring your best
chili to share in a
Chili Supper



Sunday, Feb. 15
3:00—7:00 p.m.

Ash Wednesday
February 25

Potluck Supper
5:30 p.m.

Worship
7:00 p.m.



Our Savior's is a

member of Central City Churches, Inc.

and is a Reconciling in Christ Congregation

OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

A church where God's diversity works

Church Council

Nancy Schultz - President

Aleta Chossek - Vice President

Frank Schultz -Treasurer

Barbara Vehlow - Secretary

Paul Brynildson - Personnel

Our Savior's Mission Statement

Our Savior's Lutheran Church is a diverse community of loved sinners gathered in the central city of Milwaukee:

created by God the Father Almighty;
redeemed by the blood of Jesus Christ;
united in celebrating God's act of salvation in Word and Sacrament;
called to be the body of Christ;
and empowered by the Spirit with a variety of gifts for ministry.

Our purpose/ as a congregation and as individuals/ is to:

be a visible and tangible sign of the body of Christ in metropolitan Milwaukee;
acknowledge the reign of God by living out God's forgiveness, love and justice with all creation
and use the diversity of gifts given us by the Spirit for proclaiming anew the healing and liberating Good News of Jesus Christ.

As the body of Christ in this city we:

celebrate the presence of the living God in our lives/ congregation/ community and world;
proclaim the Good News of salvation in Jesus Christ
administer the sacraments of Baptism and Communion;
welcome as sisters and brothers persons of any age/ gender, racial/ or ethnic heritage/economic status, mental or physical ability or sexual orientation;
act as a messenger of hope in the redemption of the city;
empower people to live as children of God;
respect the witness/ insight and gifts of one another;
support ministries of service to people in need locally and globally;
advocate on behalf of those who are oppressed;
and establish partnerships with the Global Christian Community.

The Messenger

(Cont from cover...)

That is why we have declared "Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God" as our Lenten theme. We will spend time naming/acknowledging what we would like to give up. Examples might be anger, resentment, bitterness, fear, greed, envy. We will then spend time considering with what we will replace what we give up. St. Paul tells us the fruits of the spirit are readily available to us. They are love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. (Galatians 5:22) These are gifts from God through the Holy Spirit, but they can also be cultivated with in us.

In addition to this theme in worship, Pastor Bob will lead a series on forgiveness for the adult class between services. Please join the group at 10:00 a.m. each Sunday throughout the month of March.

On February 15 and October 18, we will include the order for healing in our Sunday worship. This will give us the opportunity to reinforce God's gifts of strength and comfort, God's promise of peace and wholeness, and remind us of God's love embodied in the community of faith.

In the ministry of healing, the church does not replace the gifts of God that come through the scientific community nor does it promise a cure. Rather, the church offers and celebrates God's gifts and promises such as those just mentioned. We receive these blessings in our baptism and can be strengthened by renewed signs and gestures of healing throughout our lives.

May God grant you all peace and joy in believing,
Pastor Barbara





Dear brothers and sisters:

Last month I shared with all of you the way we celebrate Christmas in my home town in Mexico. Now as we approach the season of Lent it is time for me to share some of the Lenten traditions in my culture. Well, let me tell you that my knowledge was a little bit expanded during my own research of what Lent means. Do you know its origins? Why it is called Lent? What was the original purpose of this time in the church life? Well I guess I won't cover every thing

but it was really interesting to find out that the word Lent really means "spring" and I say this because I really can relate with the idea that Lent is a time in which we can have a "spring cleaning of our heart". Let me explain myself.

Lent is the liturgical season before Easter that last forty days. During these forty days some of the Christians denominations fast and pray. It also reminds us of the forty days that Jesus was in the wilderness enduring Satan's temptation. The main purpose of lent is the preparation of the believer through prayer, penitence, good works and self-denial. Also the main idea for the believers to go through this experience was for the mere purpose of being baptized. I don't know with clarity when this started, and that would be a good homework for you to do during this time.

The truth is that many of us really don't know the real purpose of Lent, and sometimes we go with our popular knowledge and think that during this time we give up some of the things that we enjoy like food, dancing, go to theater etc., or give up something that we enjoy but are not beneficial for our bodies, like smoke, eating chocolate, etc. However, we have to remember what the Lord told his disciples, "it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles" (Mat.15:11) and after that he explains the disciples that what comes out of our mouths proceeds for our heart. (Mat.15:18).

This is why I said that I really loved the word "Lent" because during this time of lent we can have a spring cleaning of the heart, and get rid of the bad stuff that we have accumulated in the past. Let's ask God for the strength to change what it hurts us, enslaved us and do not allow us to be the beautiful creatures that he created since the beginning of the world and intended for us to be. Amen

In Christ peace, Pastor Betty Baires

The Messenger

Mutual Ministry Reflections

As a member of the Mutual Ministry [Team](#) I have shared with Pastor Barbara, as well as other members of the group and fellow congregants, many of their experiences-past and recent - as well as vision(s) for the future.

In Mutual Ministry our tasks include sharing with other members [of the team](#) and congregation members our perceptions, feedback, ideas and processing the same to foster communication, healing and outreach within the framework of Our Savior's and the larger church.

As a congregation we have made a decision to expand our ministries at a time of increased need. The church has been under attack from many quarters and society's neediest often overlooked and/or poorly served by short-sighted and mismanaged policies.

In my approximately 20 years of involvement with Our Savior's I have been given many opportunities and experiences with community. These experiences have been in the context of ongoing change and expectations. Some have been welcomed and some I have experienced as loss. I have always found the message of "all things working for good [for those](#) who believe" demonstrated and lived out at Our Savior's. This has been possible in large part due to the network of groups and ministries within the Our Savior's community.

Before joining Our Savior's I was a frequent visitor who enjoyed the adult education and forum offerings and the advocacy/outreach that was apparent. I was also drawn [as](#) a St. Olaf College graduate to the Milwaukee Urban Semester and other links with that college.

Part of my personal and professional Five Year Plan is to explore further the writing of Martin Luther, Saint Augustine and Saint Paul on community. I recently read where Saint Paul in writing to the Ephesians (1:14) referred to the church as God's inheritance. In this festival year of Saint Paul (as observed by our Roman Catholic brethren and many others) it is time again to reflect on the treasure we are to our Creator and Redeemer. I look forward to the rest of the story and welcome any and all feedback and suggestions.

[Gary Christianson](#)



February

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

<p>1 Worship 8:30 & 11:00 am</p> <p>Pastor Betty on vacation February 2 - 9</p>	<p>2</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Hi Hopes Investment Club Meeting</p>	<p>3 2:30 p.m. All Staff Meeting</p> <p>5:00 p.m. 8:30 Liturgy Planning</p> <p>5:00 p.m. Yoga</p>	<p>4 12 noon Prayer Lunch</p> <p>6:00 pm 3AM Rehearsal</p>
<p>8 Worship 8:30 & 11:00 am</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10 <u>Staff Retreat</u></p> <p>5:00 p.m. Yoga</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Mutual Ministry Team</p>	<p>11 12 noon Prayer Lunch</p> <p>6:00 pm 3AM Rehearsal</p>
<p>15 Healing Services</p> <p>Worship 8:30 & 11:00 am</p> <p>3:00-7:00 pm - Chili Dump, Games, Movie</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17 2:30 p.m. Staff Meeting</p> <p>5:00 p.m. Yoga</p>	<p>18 9:30 Leah Circle</p> <p>12 noon Prayer Lunch</p> <p>3:00 pm West End Landlords</p> <p>6:00 pm 3AM Rehearsal</p>
<p>22 Worship 8:30 & 11:00 am</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24 2:30 p.m. Staff Meeting</p> <p>5:00 p.m. Yoga</p>	<p>25 <u>Ash Wednesday</u></p> <p>12 noon Prayer Lunch</p> <p>5:00 pm 3AM Rehearsal</p> <p>7:00 pm Worship</p>

The Messenger

2009

Thu

Fri

Sat

5 7:15 pm Senior Choir	6	7 9:00 am NA Group
12 9:30 am Quilting 3:30 pm 11:00 Liturgy Planning 5:30 pm Arts Team Meeting 7:15 pm Senior Choir	13	14 9:00 am NA Group 1:00 - 7:00 pm Wisconsin Injured Workers Dinner and Meeting
19 7:15 pm Senior Choir	20 6:30 pm Peace Vigil	21 9:00 am NA Group
26 7:15 pm Senior Choir	27	28 9:00 am NA Group

The Power of Forgiveness

"Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us."

God freely forgives, in fact, it is in God's nature to forgive, but what about human forgiveness? Is it in our human nature to forgive? Forgiveness in recent years has become the subject of scientific study. If these studies are to be believed, revenge is the more natural response to injury or wrong. These studies show that the same parts of the brain associated with pleasure are excited when we respond in a revengeful manner as when we eat some desirable food like chocolate.

At the same time we humans desire and know the peace of mind that comes with forgiveness and reconciliation. Our Christ-centered faith along with most of the world's religions teach and encourage their adherents to make forgiveness an essential dimension of their lives. As central and important as forgiveness is in our lives we know how difficult it is to forgive or ask for forgiveness.

During the Bible Study session on Sunday mornings during Lent we will take time to study and talk about forgiveness. Besides Scripture we will use portions of the film, *The Power of Forgiveness*, winner of Best Documentary at the Sun Valley Spiritual Film Festival 2007, as well as our own personal experiences with forgiveness, to help us all grow in our faith journeys.



The classes begin at 10:00 am, Sunday, March 1, and conclude Sunday, March 29. Sessions are held in the first floor meeting room.

Pastor Bob Scheuermann

YOU ARE INVITED!

Sunday Morning

Bible Study for Lent

The Power of Forgiveness

10:00 A.M.

MARCH 1-29

in the Conference Room

MEMORY QUILT UPDATE

Good News ----- the quilt is now hanging in the narthex on the west wall!

A booklet or notebook will be written sometime in February explaining the various blocks, such as who donated/made them, the names of people in the various pictures, etc; this will be placed on the small table in front of the quilt. Lolita wishes to thank those who contributed to this endeavor and for the encouragement and enthusiasm shown by many fellow parishioners.



Thanks to Lolita Lukach (right) for her considerable efforts in coordinating and constructing this beautiful Memory Quilt commemorating Our Savior's 150th anniversary. Also thanks to Dave Totten for installing the rod for hanging and to Billy Nash (left) for his assistance on hanging day!

Sunday, February 15

Chili Dump, Games and Movie! 3:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Sponsored by the Arts Team, plan to come for a fun time and good food. The featured movie will be "Making of Milwaukee", the film version of John Gurda's book about Milwaukee history. Bring the family - bring your favorite board or card games - bring your friends - bring your best chili! We request regular chili and vegetarian chili...Direct your questions to Mary Anderson or Norma Fogle.



Games, PBS Documentary, Chili Dump



Fun!

WORSHIP LEADERS FOR FEBRUARY SUNDAYS

<i>Schedule</i>	Sunday February 1	Sunday February 8	Sunday February 15	Sunday February 22
Assisting Minister	8:30 Paula Holman 11:00 Rick Sandvig	Paul Brynildson	8:30 Jane Bosman-Clark 11:00 Rich Young	Miguel de Jesús
Reader	8:30 Jane Bosman-Clark 11:00 Will Martin	8:30 Dorothy Kittle-son 11:00 Aleta Chossek	8:30 Mike Festge 11:00 Nancy Young	Mary Anderson
Communion Server	8:30 Jane Bosman-Clark, Eric Seymour 11:00 Rick Sandvig	8:30 Matt James, Norma Fogle 11:00 Paul Brynild-son	8:30 Mike & Doreen Festge 11:00 Nancy Young	8:30 Steve Oakland, Mary Anderson 11:00 Miguel de Jesús
Acolyte	8:30 Jane Bosman-Clark 11:00 Rick Sandvig	8:30 Matt James 11:00 Paul Brynild-son	8:30 Jane Bosman-Clark 11:00 Nancy Young	8:30 Steve Oakland 11:00 Miguel de Jesús
Sacristy	8:30 Jane Bosman-Clark 11:00 Penny Schwid	8:30 Frank and Nancy Schultz 11:00 Penny Schwid	8:30 Jane Bosman-Clark 11:00 Rich & Nancy Young	8:30 Doris Sorvick, Judy Pinger 11:00 Bill Wood
Gift Bearer families	8:30 Williams 11:00 Volunteer Ush-ers	8:30 Vehlow 11:00 Volunteer Ush-ers	8:30 McLean 11:00 Volunteer Ush-ers	8:30 Pinger 11:00 Volunteer Ush-ers
Sound Room 8:30	Paul Schneble	Mike Festge	Jenny Jacobsen	Kevin Doerr

February Birthdays



Goeckerman, Charlotte	02/02	Wieneri, Carolyn	02/21
Klumb, Paul	02/02	Flatten, Tiffany	02/22
Casey, Catherine	02/03	Greengrass, Debra	02/22
Baumann, Corey	02/07	Holman, Paula	02/22
Heinemann, Gladys	02/09	Jorgensen, Herman Jr.	02/22
Heyer, Charlotte	02/09	Hintz, Christy Lynn	02/23
Baver, Donald	02/10	Roe, Rachel	02/23
Strommen, Robert	02/10	Davis, Joseph	02/24
Meineke, Scott	02/11	Brown, Linda	02/25
Schmidt, Lindsey	02/11	Flatten, Linda	02/25
Westcott, Sophia	02/11	Tweet, Curtis	02/25
Dusold, Walt	02/12	Dahlke, Joan	02/26
Rasmussen, Barbara	02/12	Deer, Sheryl	02/26
Greengrass, Alec	02/13	Giese, Peter	02/26
Jorgensen, Elsie	02/13	Greengrass, Rikki	02/26
Nowicki, Rebecca	02/13	Blasier, Lenore	02/28
Pinger, Judith	02/14	Gaines, Wendy	02/28
Bliesner, Colleen	02/21	Nelson, Debra	02/28
Schaefer, Linda	02/21	Pierce, Daniel	02/28

**Prayers have been
requested for:**

- ☐ Shirley Deer
- ☐ Janet Alberti
- ☐ Marion Geddert



Thanks

- ☐ Clarine Bergemann, Nancy Schultz, and Shirley Deer wish to thank the congregation for the many cards, calls, and prayers while they were recovering from illness.
- ☐ Thanks to Studio Gear (Bob and Lana Wiese) for the use of lights and other equipment for recent concerts and meetings.
- ☐ Thanks to Nancy Schultz, Lori Gutowski and others who put together the lunch for the annual meeting.

The Messenger
Published monthly by:
Our Savior's Lutheran Church
3022 W. Wisconsin Ave
Milwaukee, WI 53208

**Non Profit
Organization**
US Postage Paid
Permit #2254

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Rev. Barbara Rasmussen, D. Min., Pastor
Rev. Betty Baires, Pastor of Discipleship
Billy Nash, Maurice Scruggs, Nila Wooten,
Custodians
Penny Schwid, Administrative Secretary
Doris Sorvick, Office Assistant
John Seboldt, Organist
Michael Barna, Senior Choir Director
Nancy Schultz, Congregation President

If you would prefer to receive this newsletter by email, please notify the church office...

Phone: (414) 342-5252



The Messenger

Editor Penny Schwid

Printing Doris Sorvick

Collating/ Mailing Office Volunteers

Articles for the Messenger must be submitted by the **15th of the month** to church office or email:



SHARE Orders can be placed by February 6 at the Central City Churches Outreach Ministry.

**Articles due by
February 15 for
March 2009
Messenger**