

# The Messenger

Vol.57, Issue 1

JANUARY

2010

## Our Savior's Lutheran Church

GATHERED FOR GOOD

3022 W. Wisconsin Avenue

Milwaukee, WI 53208-3950

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OUR SAVIOR'S  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

*"A Church Where God's Diversity Works"*



## EPIPHANY CELEBRATION

Saturday  
January 9, 2010  
3:00 p.m.



Sunday  
January 25  
Worship  
10:00 a.m.  
followed by  
Lunch  
and the  
Annual  
Congregational  
Meeting

### FROM PASTOR BETTY

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

We start a new year! And with it, new resolutions. How many of the resolutions that you made last year you were able to fulfill? If you are like me, not so many! However, one of my resolutions for this year is to keep working on helping the congregation to continue opening the doors to embrace diversity and be more inclusive. Last year the Outreach Ministry team, members of the church council and PLT, started the study of the book "The Wolf Shall Lie With the Lamb."

To many of us the study helped us to understand some of the dynamics that play an important role in dealing with other cultures. It also helped us, with a great relief, to see with more hope the possibility to continue in our dream of being an inclusive church.

However, we don't want to be the only ones to benefit from this learning process, that's why we are extending the invitation to all of you to participate in the reading and discussion of the book. This will take place between worship services, starting on January 10. The books are available for you to get in the church office; other-

Cont. p. 3...



***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

Miguel de Jesús - Vice President

Rich Young -Treasurer

Virginia Koch - Secretary

Paul Brynildson - Personnel

Mike Festge - Our Savior's Foundation

## **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...)

wise you can borrow one from those who already read it. We anticipate that you will enjoy and expand your knowledge about yourself and others. It is only by knowing ourselves that we can understand others.

Along with the study of the book, the Outreach Ministry Team planned the celebration of "The Day of the Dead," "Las Posadas" last year and it is our intention to continue planning other activities you can enjoy and from which you can learn.

On January 9, 2010 at 3:00 pm we will celebrate Epiphany "Latino style". You may wonder at this point what that means. I won't answer that question here in this space, I want you to wonder and "come and see."

Being inclusive requires a lot of intentionality and nobody but ourselves will make our church a welcoming place where everybody can feel appreciated and cared for.

God bless us all and help us to open our hearts, minds and arms to receive all God's children.

Pastor Betty

*Plan to attend*  
**152nd**  
**Annual Meeting of**  
**the Congregation**  
**Sunday, January 24**

**10:00 Worship**

**Followed by the**  
**Annual Meeting and**  
**Lunch**



*Plan to attend*

***Special Budget Meeting***  
***Sunday, January 17 10:00 a.m.***

As we near the end of 2009 it is becoming clear that it has been one of our most fiscally challenging years. The Council and Finance Committee would like to meet with the congregation to discuss the current imbalance in our budget and long term financial position. We feel this will help the discussion of the budget at the Annual Meeting. The meeting had been scheduled for Sunday, January 17 in the Conference room at 10:00am. We hope you will join us.

Nancy Schultz, Congregation President

**FROM PASTOR BARBARA:**

The wise men came from the east to Bethlehem because they had seen the star of the Christ child rising. We, too, seek to follow that star. Therefore, as we move into the year 2010, the Council is working to focus on the ministry of Our Savior's that follows Christ's light.

In 2009 we heard from Joyce Caldwell, through her ethnographic study of Our Savior's, that we are truly moving toward being a multi-cultural congregation. We heard from her about the difficulties of living in a diverse community of faith. Yet, we know that is where we want to go. Therefore, we are engaging in more training that will move us toward our vision. Five of us will be participating in the Kaleidoscope Winter Institute in February. The course offers skills for building an inclusive community. This is in concert with our current Forward Plan, approved by the Council and supported by the OSLC Foundation.

Even as we engage in this training and the experiences it offers us, we need to continue to work on maintaining and refurbishing the building, in order to enhance and grow our ministry. Therefore, we continue in the Sacred Places: New Dollars, New Partners project. Sacred Places is a long-term effort to expand our sources for funding the ministry at Our Savior's.

As we continue to become a more diverse community of faith, we rejoice in our past and move forward with joy and anticipation to where God is leading us. Please come along with us as we follow the star of the Christ child in the New Year of 2010!

Pastor Barbara

More from Pastor Barbara "Thank you to all the people of Our Savior's for your work on the Special Synod Assembly." Also, "thank you to those who designed and led the worship -- the music was inspiring," and "everything was well done." Those are words from Pastors, Bishops and lay members of our synod and visitors from neighboring synods.

Pastor Barbara says "Thank you to Penny, Doris, Mary, Nancy and Joan for all the office work that was done in the days and weeks beforehand. Thank you to the musicians, ushers, acolytes, pray-ers, Communion servers, crucifer and more who created a special worship service, including: Bob F, Jackie, Miguel, Pastor Betty, Oji, Darien, Paige, Jane, LaVonne, Steve, Floyd H, Paul S and Paul B.

Thank you to the greeters, kitchen, office workers, and sound people including Joan T, Virginia, Linda, Tiffany, Kerri, Bill, Gail, Norma, JerDerict, Judy, David, Russ, Jenny and others. Thank you to our custodians Nila and Billy, who worked tirelessly for many extra hours doing whatever needed to be done. We are privileged to be able to serve the wider church with our building and our people so that the work of the Gospel can be proclaimed. Thank you to each one for your gracious service to God's work!

**Join the book study, Sundays at 10:00 a.m.  
beginning January 10th**

*“The Wolf Shall Dwell with the Lamb”*

*A spirituality for Leadership in a Multicultural Community*

*By Eric H. F. Law*

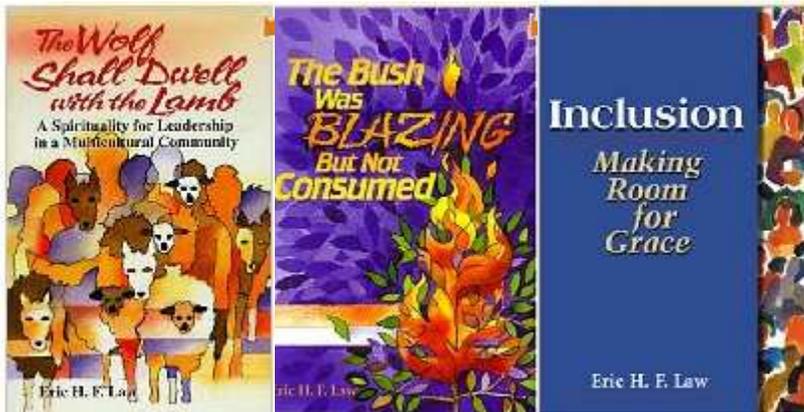
We are asking questions of one another about the future of the church...the future of Our Savior’s Milwaukee, of the Greater Milwaukee Synod, of the ELCA, of the church universal...

*Why do we have to be inclusive?*

*Is it necessary to be multicultural?*

*Are we called by God to live in a diverse and inclusive community?*

One opportunity to ask these questions and more will begin on Sunday, January 10 at 10:00 a.m. with our study of Eric Law’s book “The Wolf Shall Dwell With the Lamb”. The books are available to purchase from the church office for \$13 OR you may wish to borrow a book from a member of the Church Council, PLT or an Outreach Team member, who have used the book this fall. Our discussions, continuing on January 17 and 24, will raise the questions and begin to help us find the answers to our challenges to live in multicultural community.



This book study is only the beginning. We will study two more of Eric Law’s books. Part Two will be a study of “The Bush Was Burning but Not Consumed” and Part Three “Inclusion, Making Room for Grace”. This will be an exciting and challenging time of study, reflection, prayer, listening and dialog.



*Funding Ministries with the Poor*

December 7, 2009

The Rev. Barbara Rasmussen  
Our Savior's Lutheran Church  
3022 W Wisconsin Avenue  
Milwaukee, WI 53208

Dear Pastor Rasmussen,

With thanksgiving for your work and for the many faithful people who continue to support ministries to the poor through Outreach for Hope, it is my privilege to notify you that Our Savior's Lutheran Church has been awarded \$4000 for the year 2010.

The grants were carefully read and discussed by a special Allocations Committee made up of seven members of the Greater Milwaukee Synod. Their work was then reviewed by the Board of Directors for Hope and office action taken to budget \$300,000 for the year 2010 and distribute the funds over the course of the year. The distribution will come in four quarterly payments.

Thank you for all the effort you put into preparing your grant application and for the many ways you assist in helping to promote the efforts of Outreach for Hope and the ministries it supports.

I am available to discuss any questions or suggestions you have in the efforts of Outreach to be a source of support for your ministry.

In Christ's service,

Rev. Jim Bickel  
Director, Outreach for Hope

Thank you to the  
Greater Milwaukee  
Synod Outreach for  
Hope fund which has  
granted \$4,000 for our  
2010 weekly Prayer  
Service and Lunches  
led by Pastor Betty.

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## *Biblical Advice for Cheerful Givers*

I was exploring the ELCA web page and I happened upon an article concerning biblical giving. The following is based heavily on that article.

*Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, for God loves a cheerful giver. 2 COR. 9:7*

There are three kinds of financial giving that are mentioned in the Bible: **Offerings, tithes and alms.**

*On the first day of every week, each of you is to put aside and save whatever extra you earn so that collections need not be taken when I come. 1 CORINTHIANS 16:2*

This verse suggests that the faith practice of making a regular financial offering to our congregation is grounded in a “first fruits” understanding of Stewardship. In other words our generosity isn’t an afterthought; it’s part of our day-in-and-day-out joyful response as a child of God.

Just as we regularly pay the rent, and buy groceries so we regularly contribute to help carry out God’s mission in the world. These offerings first help to support local ministries, outreach and more. Our congregation then shares a portion of our offerings – mission support, (or benevolence as we formerly called it) – with our Greater Milwaukee Synod, and with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Many Christians make their regular “first fruit” contribution a **tithe**, that is, ten percent or some other percentage of their income. In addition many Christians give an additional portion of their income toward some other specific cause. These **offerings** go to such causes as the ELCA’s World Hunger Fund, our synod’s Outreach for Hope Fund, or our congregation’s Central City Churches’ Outreach Ministry. Such designated support is given above and beyond our regular offering.

**Alms** are our compassionate, heartfelt response to the people Jesus mentioned in Matthew 25: those “least” of our sisters and brothers.

*Sell your possessions, and give alms.” LUKE 12:33*

This is our most personal and spontaneous kind of giving in response to people in need. Think about the homeless man you see every day by the bus stop or the family in your congregation whose home was lost during a fire. Our giving “to such as these” makes God’s love for them feel very real, such kindness reveals Christ’s presence within them as well.”

\* \* \* \* \*

I offer this as something for each of us to reflect and pray upon. It suggests to me that abundant joy can be found as we generously give what has been given to us by our most gracious God.

Pastor Bob, Stewardship Ministry Team

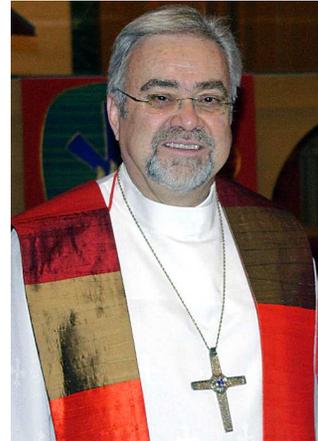
December 21, 2009

Dear Friends in Christ:

Marianne and I join you in thanking God for Our Savior's 150 years of mission and ministry in the heart of the city for the sake of the world in the name of Christ. The twelve years we spent among you are among the most memorable we have spent in almost 40 years of pastoral service in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and its predecessor the American Lutheran Church.

When I was called to serve as co-pastor with Pr. John Rollefson at Our Savior's in 1983, my responsibilities focused on worship, youth, stewardship, and education. Working with the talented musicians of the congregation in planning and leading worship was always uplifting and inspiring. I will always remember the Christmas concerts and the special all music Sundays. Going on canoe trips, youth gatherings and college trips with the youth was similarly fun and memorable, especially as we were able to include our own children in those activities. I will always remember canoeing through "the moose muck" when our guide led us through a nearly dried up lake! As I led the congregation in stewardship, I also learned what it meant to tithe, and came to appreciate the financial commitments many made to the work of Christ in and through the congregation. And working with the many volunteers who taught Sunday School and adult classes, I grew in my own role as teacher. Teaching confirmation classes, Word and Witness classes, and then helping to coordinate Caring Community were highlights for me. Alternating the responsibility of supervising Interns with Pr. John meant that I had the privilege of helping to prepare four young people for ordained ministry in the church. The relationships forged then continue to be treasured even more than two decades later.

Certainly one of the many gifts Our Savior's gave me was the experience of working with a concept of team ministry that was further enhanced by a multi-cultural, multi-faith and multi-ethnic staff. The many talented lay persons who understood their vocations as active involvement in church and community whether through the Next Door Foundation, Food Pantry, Senior Center or Central City Churches, has been unequalled in any other parish I have served since. And working with Roman Catholic, Jewish, African-American and Hispanic colleagues prepared me both for the ministry and the staff I work with now here in the Southwest California Synod.



Continued on p. 17...

# Thank You!

- ⇒ From Central City Churches - Thanks to everyone who helped fill 100 **holiday food packages for Christmas** for randomly selected pantry recipients.
- ⇒ **Pastor Barbara** gives thanks for all the cards, gifts, and heartfelt wishes for well-being in the Christmas season.
- ⇒ **Ruth Williams and Lenore Blasier** give thanks for all of the calls and cards, prayers and good wishes during their recent illnesses.
- ⇒ **Next Door Foundation** and **Community Advocates Program for the Homeless** send thanks for the beautiful Christmas gifts provided by members of Our Savior's for the participants in those programs. Your gifts express Christ's love for all people.
- ⇒ **The Mitten Tree** has been loaded with your donated mittens, hats, scarves and gloves. Some purchased, some handmade, and all very much appreciated. Alicia Ellis is distributing these to people who come into the Outreach Ministry who are in need of cold weather gear. Many beautiful sets were included with the Christmas food baskets.
- ⇒ **Special thanks** to the many, many people who have come out to help with special projects recently: to Gail Jacobsen for the Lefse Project and Christmas basket distribution - to the Building and Grounds team and others (LaVonne & Jerry Williams, Norma Fogle, Phil Enockson, Russ Jacobsen, Amy Gutierrez, Dennis James, Maurice Scruggs, Nancy Schultz, Sherry Johnston, Walt Chossek, Paul Brynildson, Eric Seymour, Larry Prochnow, Floyd Cason) for repairs and decorations for Christmas - to the custodial staff and many volunteers who put in extra hours for the Synod Assembly in December - to Mary Anderson, Joan and David Totten and the Arts Team, Senior Choir, 3AM and music staff who put together a joyous Christmas Concert—to the church office workers for the extra bulletins, giving statements, mailings etc. - for the homemade goodies that were donated for the concert, the Christmas potluck, the Leah Circle meeting and for the staff - to Lolita Lukach for her continued work on the memory book to accompany the anniversary quilt - to Pastor Betty and the Outreach Team for Las Posadas - the list goes on and on. It takes all of the members of this community of faith to carry out the mission of Our Savior's and live into the vision that Pastors Barbara and Betty hold up for us (see their articles in this Messenger). Thanks to everyone!
- ⇒ Thanks to those who donated **poinsettias** to decorate the church for Christmas and to those who delivered plants to the homebound.





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# January

**Sun**

**Mon**

**Tue**

**Wed**

|   |                                    |   |  |
|---|------------------------------------|---|--|
|   |                                    |   |  |
| <b>3</b><br>8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Worship<br>10:00 a.m. Sunday School,<br>Coffee & Fellowship, Bible<br>Study                 | <b>4</b><br><br>6:00 p.m. Hi Hopes | <b>5</b><br><br>2:30 p.m. All Staff Meeting<br>6:30 p.m. Diakonia*                                  | <b>6</b><br><br>12:00 Prayer Service/Lunch<br>6:00 p.m. 3AM Rehearsal  |
| <b>10</b><br>8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Worship<br><br>10:00 a.m. Sunday School,<br>Coffee & Fellowship, Book<br>Study             | <b>11</b>                          | <b>12</b><br><br>2:30 p.m. Staff Meeting<br>5:30 p.m. Book of Faith<br>7:00 p.m. Investment Meeting | <b>13</b><br>10:00 a.m. CCC at St. Paul's<br><br>12:00 Prayer Service/Lunch<br>6:00 p.m. 3AM Rehearsal<br>7:15 p.m. Senior Choir Rehearsal               |
| <b>17</b><br>8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Worship<br>10:00 a.m. Sunday School,<br>Coffee & Fellowship, Book<br>Study, Budget Meeting | <b>18</b>                          | <b>19</b><br><br>2:30 p.m. Staff Meeting<br>6:30 p.m. Foundation Meeting                            | <b>20</b><br>9:30 a.m. Leah Circle<br>9:30 a.m. Leah Circle 12:00 Prayer Lunch<br>3:00 p.m. West End 6:00 p.m. 3AM<br>6:30 Peace Vigil 7:15 Senior Choir |
| <b>24</b><br>10:00 a.m. Worship<br><br>Annual Meeting with lunch<br>following the service                                 | <b>25</b>                          | <b>26</b><br><br>2:30 p.m. Staff Meeting  | <b>27</b><br><br>12:00 Prayer Service/Lunch<br>6:00 p.m. 3AM Rehearsal   |
| <b>31</b><br>8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Worship<br>10:00 a.m. Sunday School,<br>Coffee & Fellowship, Book<br>Study                 |                                    |   |  |

\* Guests

*You may contact the church*

The Messenger

# 2010



**Thu**

**Fri**

**Sat**

|    |    |    |   |   |
|----|----|----|---|---|
|    |    | 1  | 2   | 3   |
|    |    |    | Church Office Closed  | 9:00 a.m. NA Group Meeting  |
| 7  | 8  |    |  | 9:00 a.m. NA Group Meeting<br>3 p.m. Epiphany Celebration               |
| 14 | 15 | 16 |   | 9:00 a.m. NA Group Meeting<br>PLT Meeting<br>12:00 noon NA Speak-a-thon |
| 21 | 22 | 23 |   | 9:00 a.m. NA Group Meeting  |
| 28 | 29 | 30 |   | 9:00 a.m. NA Group Meeting  |

office or consult the website for up-to-date meeting and event information. Tel: 414-342-5252 www.oslcmilw.org

## EXPERIENCE EPIPHANY, LATIN STYLE

<sup>5</sup>*so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.* [Romans 12:5, New International Version]

At Christmas, Christians celebrate God giving us the greatest gift of all, His son. We exchange gifts with family and friends and worship together in some of the largest services of the entire church year. That is the way everyone does it, right? Well, ummm, no.

Did you know that across much of the Latin world, Christians not only hold large celebrations for Christ's birth, but also do so to commemorate the arrival of the Wise Men and the Christ Child's introduction to the Gentiles? In some countries, Christians actually exchange gifts on Epiphany, rather than on Christmas, just as the Wise Men gave gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh to the baby Jesus. In others, gifts are given as part of both celebrations.



In Spain as well as many countries in Latin America, Epiphany is referred to as El Día de los Reyes ("the Day of the Kings"). In Puerto Rico, for instance, children leave hay to feed the Three Kings' camels, or horses. In other areas, from Mexico to Bolivia, children leave their shoes out and the Three Kings—Melchor, Gaspar, and Balthazar—leave gifts.

And, did I mention the food and drink? It is tradition in Mexico to celebrate Epiphany by gathering together and enjoying tamales and hot chocolate with the Rosca de Reyes. (*Picture a kringle with a very special surprise inside.*)

We are one body in Christ, yet we have so many different traditions to celebrate His coming. If you are like me, you may have not known about these traditions among our Brothers and Sisters of Latin descent. We have an excellent opportunity to learn from each other in January.

On Saturday, January 9<sup>th</sup>, 3:00--5:00 p.m., Our Savior's Lutheran Church will host an ecumenical service with several other congregations to tell the story from a Latin American perspective. Come and experience a multicultural epiphany filled with songs, traditional foods and drink, stories, and the reading of Matthew 2:1-12 in Spanish and English. It is just one more way our church is striving to be a place where God's diversity works.

**Our Savior's Lutheran Church**  
**El Día de los Reyes: A Latin Epiphany**  
**3:00 – 5:00 p.m.**

Yours in Christ, William Martin

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## TAKING A SABBATICAL

The Sabbatical Leave Policy for Our Savior's pastors was written and approved in 1988. Since then three Pastors have made use of time away for rest, reflection, and renewal. The Greater Milwaukee Synod Sabbatical Policy states that from time to time pastors need an extended period of time for study, personal growth, reflection and renewal without the demands of one's regular ministry, that is, a sabbatical leave.

Experience has shown that the congregation's ministry directly benefits from such an experience. Long-term ministry is revitalized and stimulated. All parties benefit.

A sabbatical is normally for 12 weeks, including the two weeks of continuing education granted each year. Vacation time is not included in the sabbatical time.

Synod guidelines suggest that sabbatical time be taken after six years of service to a congregation. Our Savior's Sabbatical policy is after five years. Pastor Barbara will complete seven years here in February 2010. In August of 2010 she will have completed 25 years of ordained ministry and has not previously taken a Sabbatical. We, the Mutual Ministry Team, recommended that she have Sabbatical time in 2010. The Council has approved it for the months of June, July and August.

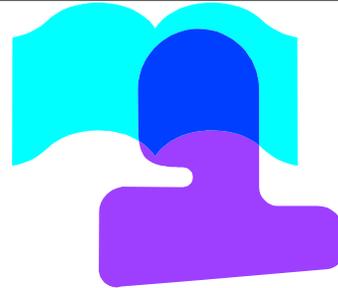
Pastor Barbara's plans center around observation, participation and research in becoming a more multicultural congregation. Two trips designed to spend time with people in diverse cultures and ministries include one to the Middle East and one to New York City. Other time will be spent reading, reflecting, writing, and visiting family.

The Congregation Council is working with Pastor Betty to plan her time so that all necessary pastoral care, preaching, worship and administrative needs are covered. The challenge is to be realistic as to the expectations of Pastor Betty, who is called to a three-quarter time position. This Sabbatical was part of the staffing plan laid out before calling a second Pastor.

Please contact us, or a Council member with questions.

Mutual Ministry Team:

Joan Totten  
Gary Christianson  
Mary Nervig  
Paula Holman



## Our Savior's Memories

### *A letter from Elfrieda Winninger's daughter*

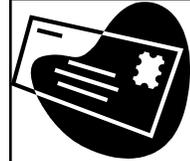
My mother was Elfrieda Winninger who was the organist for 45 years. The church, and its congregation, were a strong formative influence on my life.

Many of my memories are of the sanctuary at 9th and Scott. Even then, that part of Milwaukee was an old neighborhood, but the church drew its membership from all over the city. The building was small but welcoming. It had wooden pews worn smooth with years of use, and an altar surrounded by beautifully carved wooden filigree. Looking toward the front, the raised pulpit was on the right side; seating for the choir was in rows to the left. The organ was on the far left and my mother sat there with her back almost against the outside wall.

During the service, I usually sat in the first pew directly in front of the organ and choir loft where Mother could keep an eye on me. One Sunday, there was a visiting preacher. I was only three or four years old, and I don't know whether it was his Norwegian sermon or his stiff ruffled collar, but I was a bit frightened by his stern manner and loud voice. He droned on long after I was already bored and preached for over an hour. Even adults were shifting in their seats.

Finally he left the pulpit, the service ended, and the choir rose for the recessional. I watched until they all passed me and decided to follow their march down the center aisle to the narthex. As I looked up at the balcony, I saw people smiling. I suspect that they understood my decision. My mother did too.

Usually the choir used only the center aisle. However, Candlelight Concerts before Christmas were different. Once I joined the choir, we put robes on downstairs in the basement. Then we took our candles from the boxes where they were stored. They were made of yellowing tubes of old heavy cardboard, and had small battery-powered bulbs that lit when twisted. Once we'd made certain that ours worked, we'd come upstairs into the narthex. The congregation sat hushed and waiting in the dim light, enjoying the smell of beeswax from the altar candles and the fragrance of pine from live trees and garlands. The choir entered singing, and at the front of the church, the pairs split and moved along the outside aisles to sing more carols and Christmas songs. One was always, "I Am so Glad Each Christmas Eve" that almost everyone knew and sang in Norwegian. Later, the Children's Choir and other groups moved to the steps in front of the altar and sang from there. My father always played "Jesu Bambino" as a violin solo, and the notes drifted over everyone as a blessing.



*This is another letter collected by Lolita Lukach in recognition of Our Savior's 150+ years in Milwaukee. As we look forward, it is also good to remember the past...See also p. 8 for a letter from Bishop Dean Nelson.*

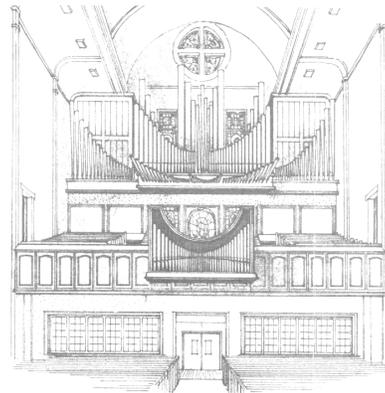
The Messenger

Afterward, everyone gathered downstairs in the church basement to socialize. Children got small boxes of hard candies that melted into sharp edges and were filled with sweet fruit filling. Adults watched the women bustle around serving egg coffee and refilling platters of rosettes, fattigman, krumkake, and other Norwegian cookies.

I was confirmed in that church. Not long after, work began on the present home of Our Savior's.

I went to grade school at Wisconsin Avenue Elementary, and we lived at 2831 W. Dunbar Place, so the new church was in my neighborhood. My best friend lived in the Millerand Apartments, so we often met to climb on the camels at the Shrine Temple and explore the rebar-strengthened cement foundation. We marveled at the size of the new building.

Once the church was complete, I enjoyed singing in the choir and remember rehearsing upstairs on Thursday evenings. The choir director was first Alette Jahren, and later Eldon Hoepfner. The music program continued to draw people to services. On Christmas Eve, our family played special arrangements for organ, violin, cello, and piano when the electronic organ was on the main floor. The Casavant organ came later, after I was married and had moved from Milwaukee. I know that the pipe organ was a dream come true for my mother and that she influenced its construction.



Pastor Gornitzka was a charismatic leader and a powerful preacher, but I also fondly remember Rev. "Woody" Lund, and Rev. "Arnie" Nelson, who officiated at my wedding to my late husband Errol Johnstad, whose family (Don and Geraldine McClellan) were also members.

Then, in the 1950's, Our Savior's was a large congregation. I remember adults like Ben and Lucille Satrum; Willard and Jeanette Jenson; Dick and Jeanne Buth; and Oiva Maki, who provided sound engineering for Sunday radio broadcasts. I also think of my friends, Roy Nilson, Jerry Aamot, and Ron Pechauer, who I believe all became pastors. There were many youth activities: Bible Camp; social activities following Sunday Evening Service; roller and ice skating; box socials; and, of course, Bible Study. Teens volunteered to teach Sunday School, and or help provide child care during services.

The Our Savior's congregation built their dreams into solid cement and stone. The church remains a Wisconsin Avenue landmark worthy of its long, diverse history.

Jean Johnstad

## “He Came Down that We Might Have Love”

Jesus came down that we might have love. In this time of Epiphany, we celebrate the love of God and the gifts of God through Jesus Christ.

### **Thank you, people of Our Saviors, for your loving gifts to the Outreach Ministry and Food Pantry.**

In these times of hungry people, homelessness, rising taxes, job losses and war, you have remembered the poor among us. Your generosity is humbling and says that you know that you have been blessed to bless others. From those of you who have given by

sorting food,  
preparing boxes,  
donating stamps,  
paying for Christmas food baskets  
and giving gifts in the thousands of dollars.



### **You have lived the love of God. You have brought light to dark places.**

The Outreach Ministry and Food Pantry has experienced overwhelming demand from the poorest of the poor and you have responded in love. Your prayers and support through donations of money, food, and time give hope to Alicia Ellis and Bob Foley and the neighborhood volunteers, so that this ministry will be able to continue in the meager months of January, February, March and into the future. The winter months are when demand continues and donations drop off. Your generosity at this time is essential to carry us through.

St. Paul writes, “In our prayers for you we always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, for we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all.” Col 1:3 This is our prayer as well thanking God and you, that you have lived the love of Christ through your generosity to all.

So, we will continue to sing the Cameroon carol, “He came down that we might have light, hallelujah for evermore”

THE CENTRAL CITY CHURCHES

*In ministry together in the name of Christ!*

*St. Rose Parish, Our Savior's Lutheran, St. Paul's Lutheran, Central United Methodist, Redeemer Lutheran, Gesu Parish, Calvary Presbyterian, St. James Episcopal*

The Messenger

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## **Celebrating the Life and Music of Paul Manz**

### ***Join the choir for this event***

Sister Mary Jane Wagner and Charles Sullivan are preparing an event to celebrate the legacy and life of Paul Manz on Wednesday, January 6, 2010 at 7:30 p.m. in St. Joseph Chapel, 1501 S. Layton Boulevard. It is an event open to everyone.

You are invited to sing! To participate in the choir, please register by contacting JMark Baker through the church office. There will be a rehearsal at the Chapel at 6:00 p.m. on January 6th prior to the service. Music will include "Psalm 96," "E'en So Lord, Quickly Come," and other psalms and hymns from the prayerful inspiration of Dr. Manz.



### **January Opportunities for Service**

Prepare, serve, clean up for the luncheon on the day of the Annual Meeting, January 24th. Contact Pastor Barbara if you can help.

Help in the church office. If you have a morning or afternoon a week to spend at Our Savior's, contact Penny in the church office.

See Pastor Betty to serve at the Epiphany Celebration on January 9. Assistance with food, set up and clean up is welcome!

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### **Bishop Nelson's letter**

...continued from p. 8

When Pr. Reggie Hansome joined us in 1990, some of my responsibilities changed in the congregation, but together we continued to explore what it meant to serve a central city neighborhood with a congregation gathered from all parts of the city. Our Director for Life and Growth and the Emergency Needs Coordinator helped in these efforts, and was a testimony to how rostered and lay staff, called and volunteers worked together for the ministry of Christ through the congregation.

In the nearly fifteen years that have gone by since we left the congregation, I realize that much has changed, both in our personal lives and in our communities. But with Our Savior's emphasis as a place "where diversity works," I realize that during the years we were together we were laying the groundwork for what God would continue to do in and with the congregation both today and into the future.

Our gratitude, thoughts and prayers continue with all of you. May God continue to use you as a blessing to many.

In Christ, Dean W. Nelson, Bishop

## WORSHIP LEADERS FOR JANUARY SUNDAYS

| <i>Schedule</i>              | Sunday<br>January 3                                    | Sunday<br>January 10                                 | Sunday<br>January 17                                       | Sunday<br>January 24         | Sunday<br>January 31  |
|------------------------------|--|--|--|------------------------------|---|
| Assisting<br>Minister        | Paul Brynildson  | Jane Bosman-Clark                                    | 8:30 Paula Holman<br>11:00 Penny Schwid                    | 10:00 a.m. Hannah McLean     | Gail Jacobsen   |
| Reader                       | 8:30 Karen Schneble<br>11:00 Bob Foley                 | 8:30 Mike Festge<br>11:00 Walt Chossek               | 8:30 Norma Fogle<br>11:00 Penny Schwid                     | 10:00 a.m. Dorothy Kittleson | 8:30 John Schneble<br>11:00 Bob Foley                       |
| Communion<br>Server          | 8:30 Jerry & LaVonne Williams<br>11:00 Paul Brynildson | 8:30 Mike & Doreen Festge<br>11:00 Jane Bosman-Clark | 8:30 Norma Fogle<br>11:00 William Martin                   | 10:00 a.m. Steve Oakland     | 8:30 Eric Seymour<br>11:00 Gail Jacobsen                    |
| Acolyte                      | 8:30 LaVonne Williams<br>11:00 Paul Brynildson         | 8:30 & 11:00 Jane Bosman-Clark                       | 8:30 Paula Holman<br>11:00 William Martin                  | 10:00 a.m. Steve Oakland     | 8:30 Eric Seymour<br>11:00 Bill Wood                        |
| Sacristy                     | 8:30 Jerry & LaVonne Williams<br>11:00 Penny Schwid    | 8:30 & 11:00 Jane Bosman-Clark                       | 8:30 Bev O'Connell<br>Karen Schneble<br>11:00 Penny Schwid | 10:00 a.m. Jane Bosman-Clark | 8:30 Marie Brynildson,<br>Lenore Blasier<br>11:00 Bill Wood |
| Gift Bearer<br>families 8:30 | James  | Williams   | Bill Wood  | 10:00 James                  | Westcott  |
| Sound Room<br>8:30           | Mike Festge  | Paul Schneble  | Jane Bosman-Clark  | 10:00 a.m. Mike Festge       | Paul Schneble   |



## January Birthdays

|                     |       |                      |       |
|---------------------|-------|----------------------|-------|
| Galicia, Maria      | 01/01 | Hendrix, Jameshia    | 01/20 |
| Roby-Brown, Larissa | 01/01 | Wood, Bill           | 01/20 |
| Heater, Mildred     | 01/03 | Nimz, Karen          | 01/22 |
| Kittle son, Dorothy | 01/03 | Nowicki, John        | 01/22 |
| Wiese, Robert       | 01/04 | Folkedahl, Diane     | 01/24 |
| James, Evan         | 01/06 | Watkins-Gray, Vivian | 01/24 |
| Peterson, Beth      | 01/06 | Mathis, Aysha        | 01/25 |
| Bradshaw, Debra     | 01/09 | McLean, Brittany     | 01/26 |
| Gisele, Tarn        | 01/14 | McLean, Kristine     | 01/26 |
| Hendrix, Jousline   | 01/17 | Schwid, Aaron        | 01/26 |
| Trongard, Bryan     | 01/17 | Birk, Scott          | 01/28 |
| Schultz, Nancy      | 01/18 | Alberti, Janet       | 01/30 |
| Foley, Mary         | 01/20 | Dehner, Samantha     | 01/31 |
| Gender, Marion      | 01/20 | Quade, Janice        | 01/31 |

*Happy  
Birthday!*

*May God  
bless you!*

### New Office Volunteers

**Lolita Lukach** and **Kerri Kaczor** have offered to help in the church office. They will answer the phone, greet visitors, and assist with clerical tasks. If you are available one morning or afternoon a week, contact Penny in the church office.

### Baptisms

On December 20, the congregation welcomed two babies in Holy Baptism. **Marshall Richard Walker-Dyson**, son of April Walker and Marshall Dyson. Grandparents are Marshall and Marrien Walker. **Ka'mira Shalia Smith**, daughter of Jousline Hendrix and Jeremy Smith, granddaughter of Sheila Hendrix.

### Death

Longtime member **Margaret Bast** died on November 26. Services were held at Our Savior's on November 30. Our prayers are with Margaret's family and friends.

**YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED  
FOR...**

**The McLean family, on the  
death of Mike's mother, Rosella  
Mary Anderson  
Andrew Bakken  
Leola Wooten  
Brian Urban**



The Messenger

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Rev. Barbara Rasmussen, D. Min., Pastor

Rev. Betty Baires, Pastor of Discipleship

Billy Nash, Maurice Scruggs, Nila Wooten,  
Ayub Mohamed - Custodians

Penny Schwid, Administrative Secretary

John Seboldt, Organist

J. Mark Baker, 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**

**Email us at:**

**office@oslcmilw.org**

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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 by email: office@oslcmilw.org



**SHARE** Orders can be placed by January 5 at the Central City Churches Outreach Ministry.

**Articles due by  
December 15 for  
January 2010  
Messenger**