



# Our Savior Lutheran January News

## *From the Pastor . . .*

The ministry of Our Savior Lutheran has been a congregation offering a spiritual home for people for nearly 75 years. Farmers, ranchers, and people employed in the cities of the Magic Valley have been part of our congregation's life development since the beginning. Approximately seven years ago the congregation purchased land and constructed a new building with a sanctuary, warming kitchen, quilt room and classrooms. The congregation has known 4-5 locations, since it's beginning – until we now are set for a long view of the future with our own building and acres on which to grow.

Outreach, both at home and abroad, has been a dynamic part of the congregation's ministry from its earliest days. Our Savior Lutheran continues to be a home for people from the center of the Magic Valley to people for miles around. Being a congregation in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, we have an identity in the Twin Falls area that is unique.

The coming six to nine months will be a time of perhaps the greatest opportunity Our Savior Lutheran Church has known, and at the same time, in honesty, these months will be filled with elements of danger.

As with many congregation, just prior to a time of significant growth in all ways that a congregation can grow, Our Savior Lutheran Church has experienced a sense of shrinking as many urban churches of the ELCA have in recent years. If you look at congregations which have become dynamic leaders for the ELCA in fulfilling Jesus' Great Commission and Great Commandment: to go and make disciples and love all people – you will see that concern over declining attendance is part of the process for inspiring things to come.

The next step that ELCA congregations have experienced which have rebounded from a time of introspection and concern about themselves goes through is a time of *looking for a model of ministry to couple with their theology and heritage to help them reclaim God's plan for our church.*

Questions which the Holy Spirit is asking Our Savior Lutheran Church in this time include:

1. Can we learn from others, some new ways of doing life as a congregation while maintaining what are our core values, or will OSL continue to hold on to so much more than the core values that we cannot learn how congregations survive and thrive in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century?
2. Can we clarify and embrace a congregation-wide commitment to specific and clear roles and responsibilities of our pastor(s), program staff, council, program leaders, members, and guests?
3. Can we let the Spirit of God, revealed decisively in Jesus Christ, lead us to set aside arguing, and admit that there will always be differences, while we hold to unity in our declared Mission, Vision, Purposes, and Values as an ELCA congregation?

Changes will start – where ever there is a willingness to move with the ONE Spirit, and ONE Jesus Christ, as the only Lord. The pastor will not be or preach the same or use the same tools that we experienced in the past – unless we want to remain living in the past, and expect some of our dearest members to resurrect before the final Day – to maintain our attendance.

God's transforming grace will draw out of *everyone who is willing to move forward beyond his or her comfortable wants and wishes that serve self – so that we have visions of greater things than we can accomplish by doing it ourselves or living out our ideas on our own.*

ELCA congregations with strong Lutheran traditions which have grown in recent years have discovered that the call to **commitment** attracts people who want the congregation to thrive and distracts and causes detraction by those who do not want to thrive.

*Continued on page 2*

## *From the Council President . . .*

Happy New Year! 2012 promises to be an exciting year for Our Savior Lutheran Church. In recent weeks, our church council has made a commitment to move us forward in a positive way. This renewed commitment to leadership and service is a reflection of their belief in the future of this congregation.

We have an excellent slate of candidates running for the four open council seats which we will fill in an election at our annual meeting on January 29. Recently we met with those members. During the meeting we went over expectations for council members and shared our vision for the future. The final slate of candidates will be announced in the near future.

The coming year will not be without it's challenges and along with our church council we will need every member to be committed to our ministry and to be actively involved in it. There will be several ways for members to become engaged in our church.

We must begin by openly discussing and healing the wounds which exist. Bishop Martin Wells will be here on January 14 to facilitate an opportunity for all members to be heard and express their concerns. It is our hope that those things which are keeping us conflicted can be brought to closure and we can move on with our ministry.

Beginning in February, the church council will be engaging in training on "Healthy Congregations". This will be ongoing training to better equip our council to lead the church.

We will continue our ministry planning and incorporate much of what we learn into the plan. The synod has also made a commitment to assist us in our leadership development and conflict resolution and you will be hearing more about that in the coming weeks.

We all need to remember this is neither your church nor my church, it is God's church and we are called to serve him here at Our Savior. The question we need to each ask ourselves is, "How will I serve God through Our Savior Lutheran Church in the coming year?"

Blessings to each of you in the New Year,

Stacey Friedlein  
Council President

*Continued from page 1*

Every leader identifies - that if God is going to use us to lead this congregation, we need to be willing to take the first steps of recommitting our lives to whatever Jesus Christ calls us to do. No matter what the institute or denomination or academic theorist source is – the result of a congregation which thrives will always be because the leaders and all of the members identified that it is more important to do honor to Jesus Christ in being a healthy congregation than anything else. At first – many people will struggle, just as a person struggles when she or he takes steps to get in better shape physically, emotionally and mentally.

There are a hundred different ways to clearly state a commonsense understanding of what it means to be a healthy church – and the people who are fully responsible for the health of a congregation – but it is always made up of every member who has been actively participating in the most recent years. To put it simply – we are only as healthy and able to thrive as every active member of the congregation.

2012 is a year of great opportunity. May Jesus Christ be known as not only *Our Savior*, but also as *the Lord of our congregation and every member of His Body involved in it.*

*Pastor Scott*



## Naomi Circle continues studying Mark

Naomi Circle will meet Wednesday, Jan. 18 at 9:15 a.m. "Who do you say that I am?" Jesus asks Peter and it is a question Jesus poses to us today. Our Bible lesson is titled "**Confessing Christ**"; and our Theme verse is Mark 9:24: *I believe, help my unbelief!* All women of OSL and their friends are invited to take part in the Bible study and enjoy a cup of coffee/tea and a goodie along with a good discussion of Mark 8 and 9.

## Wednesday AM group begins studying Philipians

Wednesday morning Bible study will resume Wednesday, Feb. 1 at 9:15 a.m. with a study of Philipians. Plan to attend and take part in this study.

Annual Reports  
are due in the office  
no later than  
January 6th.

Annual  
Congregational  
Meeting  
January 29,  
2012  
10:45 am



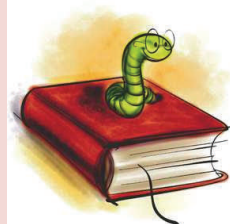
Paul & Tara Ortmann



Lynn Watkins  
Arlene Bentson  
Frank Dehoney  
Scott Fjeld  
Mehli Marcellus  
Bob Powers  
Bev Claiborn  
Carol Tombre  
Margie Rahr  
Marge Mayer  
Sue Cauffiel  
Leonard Kerbs

## New Book Study begins Jan. 30

Max Lucado's *No Wonder They Call Him the Savior* is the book planned for our Monday night book study. This will be a book/Bible study and will be a great lead-in to the season of Lent. "Max Lucado



leads you through the drama of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ....bringing to life Peter's denial, Pilate's hesitancy, and John's loyalty. Relive the events leading up to Jesus' crucifixion, from the foggy garden of Gethsemane to the incandescent room of the resurrection".

We will begin this study at 7:00 p.m on Monday, Jan. 30. Please let Marilyn Botkin (733-0304) know if you need her to order a book for you.



All men are welcome to meet on Wednesdays at 6:30 a.m. at Shari's Restaurant for breakfast, scripture reading and fellowship. Contact: Dave Nelson (733-4898).

# Thank You!

Thank you to all who participated in the Christmas Foster Care Gifts for Kids. We have 28 children who received gifts from a member of OSL. That is seven more than last year. There were some really special thoughts that went into those gifts and I am sure that every one of those children had happy feelings on opening your presents. These children do not get other gifts from the local fundraising that takes place here by other agencies, so Children and Family Services sends much thanks to all of you.

Dear Friends,

The Mustard Seed is blessed to have supporters like you. Your gift of \$187.65 and the bags of canned goods go a long way to help others. Our food pantry is in need this time of year with the upcoming holidays. Bless you and thank you for the gift from your Craft Artisan Show.

Liz Mandelkow

Dear members of Our Savior Lutheran Church,

Deepest thanks for allowing the Neighbors in Need Raffle to take up such a visible (and large) spot at your Holiday Show on November 5th. All who worked the raffle table commented on what a warm and friendly environment it was, and how much fun to be a part of all that activity.

We sold many tickets and had a very positive response to the mission of Neighbors in Need. And with two Sundays at our church plus the week in between we raised over \$1700!

Thank you all so much and particularly thanks to Margie for helping the NIN Raffle be so successful, and for helping us continue to meet the needs of neighbors in our community in the coming year.

With Christ's love,  
Cindy Jardine  
Chair, Neighbors in Need Committee

## Flower Calendar

The flower calendar  
is posted  
on the south wall in the entryway.

Please sign up  
to furnish flowers for the sanctuary.

Your name,  
and the name of the person  
you wish to honor or remember  
will be printed in the bulletin.

Contact: Mary Kay Henson  
736-6735

© bpearth \* www.ClipartOf.com/25793

Hearts and Hands have been busy handing out quilts for the winter to several different programs. Mustard Seed, Boise Rescue Mission, Red Cross, Safe House, and Bill's Place have all been recipients of all our hard work. I was witness to the 12 girls that recieved them as gifts at Bill's Place this past week. They were absolutely thrilled when they heard they would be able to keep the quilts.

They all "oohed and aahed" over every quilt and wanted to thank the gals of Hearts and Hands so much for all their hard work. These girls are in a great house with lots of structure and bible study after being jailed for drug or alcohol abuse. They are on probation and have very few items to call their own. They are working hard to change and do better things with their lives. These gifts of quilts were reinforcements of our Christian love and hope for them. It truly makes all the hard work and long hours worth it. Of course, we couldn't do it without the generous donations that we receive from the members at Our Savior. Our Thankoffering total so far is \$1528.00. We take donations all year long... so if the spirit moves you... we always need help.

But thank you so much for the generous donations.  
Dorothy Kerbs

# OSL Servants — January 2012

	Contact Person	Dec. 26—Jan. 1	Jan. 2—8	Jan. 9—15	Jan. 16—22	Jan. 23—29
Worship Assistant	Pastor Scott 733-3774	Denise Hawkins Mary K Henson	Sheri Tanner Stacey Friedlein	Curtis Henson Denise Hawkins	Dave Nelson Sheri Tanner	Kathy Ehrman Curtis Henson
Reader	Linda Watkins 733-0985	Kathy Ehrman	Margie Rahr	Curtis Henson	Lynn Watkins	Donna Erickson
Acolyte	Katie Sipe 732-8788	Julia Williams	Melanie Williams	Logan Lockwood	Maddie Schutte	Melanie Williams
Ushers	Kirk Claiborn 423-5876	Stacey & Susie Friedlein	Bob & Barb Powers	Scott & Karen Fjeld	Alice Raidiger Mike Wilson	Gary & Katie Sipe
Greeters	Lynn Watkins 734-5173	Ilse Hylton	Lynn Watkins	Bev & Dave Nelson	Lynn Watkins	Mary Kay Henson
Children's Message	Pastor Scott 733-3774	Pastor Scott	Margie Rahr Pastor Scott	Yvonne Carpenter	Linda Williams	Ilse Hylton
Altar Guild	Mary Kay Henson 736-6735					
Nursery Attendant	A-P Rongen 316-1903	Barb Powers	Barb Powers	Susie Friedlein	Whitney Fjeld	Whitney Fjeld
Power- Point Prep	Pastor Scott 733-3774	Curtis Henson	Curtis Henson	Curtis Henson	Curtis Henson	Curtis Henson
Audio Visual	Len Kerbs 733-8470	Len Kerbs	Len Kerbs	Len Kerbs	Len Kerbs	Len Kerbs
Coffee & Clean up	Marilyn Botkin 733-0304	Marilyn Botkin	Marilyn Botkin	Marilyn Botkin	Marilyn Botkin	Marilyn Botkin
Sunday Cookies	Jan Beeks 734-1823			Hazel Schutte		
Money Counters	Lynn Watkins Stacey Friedlein	Arlene Bentson Bob Powers	Arlene Bentson Bob Powers	Arlene Bentson Bob Powers	Arlene Bentson Bob Powers	Arlene Bentson Bob Powers
Snow Removal		Kirk Claiborn	Jon Helms	Mitch & Linda Watkins	Rot & Arlene Bentson	

# Contact our Ministry Leaders

Pastor Scott Berner 208-490-2451 pastor@osltf.org \*\*\* Church Office 208-733-3774 office@osltf.org

## Membership—Fellowship

Mid-week Bible Study Group	Marilyn Botkin	208-733-0304	botkin8@q.com
Fellowship Treats Coordinator	Janet Beeks	208-734-1823	janbeeks@magiclink.com
Funeral Luncheon Coordinator	Tara Ortmann	208-731-6137	t_rah@msn.com
Greeter Coordinator	Lynn Watkins	208-734-5173	lmw123@cableone.net
Luther Heights Camp Director	Rev. Eric Olsen	208-866-7657	eric@lutherheights.org
Wedding Coordinators	Janet Beeks	208-734-1823	janbeeks@magiclink.com
	Cherie Borah	208-734-4983	cherie@sooperads.com

## Discipleship— Education-Spiritual Growth

OSL Life Discovery Classes	Pastor Scott	208-490-2451	pastor@osltf.org
Prayer Chain	Ella McCauley	208-733-8414	n/a
Adult Education	Pastor Scott	208-490-2451	pastor@osltf.org
Day Camp Coordinator			
Camp Scholarships	Tara Ortmann	208-731-6137	t_rah@msn.com
Men's Breakfast Group	Dave Nelson	208-733-4898	n/a
Naomi Circle	Ruby Schrank	208-733-1482	duanes1@cableone.net
Children's Sunday School	Ann-Pell Rongen	208-316-1903	arongen@kmtv.com
Youth Group	Kendra Lockwood	208-280-1917	klockwood@safelink.net

## Ministry— Service

Pastoral Care	Pastor Scott	208-490-2451	pastor@osltf.org
Treasurer	Bev Claiborn	208-423-5876	claibornk@msn.com
Custodian	Bob Wayment	208-423-5453	bwayment@hansen.k12.id.us
Hearts and Hands Quilters	Dorothy Kerbs	208-733-8470	dorrie_k@msn.com
Natural Church Development			
Building and Grounds	Kirk Claiborn	208-423-5876	claibornk@msn.com

## Worship— Magnification

Conducting Worship	Pastor Scott	208-490-2451	pastor@osltf.org
Organist/Keyboard	Corrine Van Dyk	208-423-6339	corrinehvandyk@yahoo.com
Traditional Liturgy Assistants	Pastor & Linda Watkins	208-733-0985	mlwatkins@cableone.net
Ushers	Kirk Claiborn	208-423-5876	claibornk@msn.com
Readers	Linda Watkins	208-733-0985	mlwatkins@cableone.net
Acolytes	Katie Sipe	208-732-8788	gksipe@msn.com
Nursery	Ann-Pell Rongen	208-316-1903	arongen@kmtv.com
Audiovisual	Len Kerbs	208-733-8470	dorrie_k@msn.com
Altar Guild	Mary Kay Henson	208-736-6735	n/a
Worship Committee	Pastor Scott	208-490-2451	pastor@osltf.org

## Evangelism---Mission---Outreach

Outreach Coordinator	Katie Sipe	208-732-8788	gksipe@msn.com
----------------------	------------	--------------	----------------

## 2011 Church Council

Name	Phone	Term Expires	Name	Phone	Term Expires
Arlene Bentson	733-8822	2012	Jack Harding	733-9642	2012
Deb Brunelle	734-7051	2013	Curtis Jones	308-8432	2012
Yvonne Carpenter	732-5828	2013	Bob Powers	734-4014	2012
Noel Erickson (V.P.)	736-1025	2014	Margie Rahr	423-4188	2014
Stacey Friedlein (Pres.)	420-4267	2014	Lynn Watkins (Sec'y)	734-5173	2013