

"All spoke well of Jesus and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth." (Luke 4:22)

As I write this, I just received news that seminary classmates just lost their twenty-five year old son, himself a seminary student on "January term," in the Haiti earthquake. I believe in the resurrection of the dead, life everlasting and the Lord's peace. What do I say?

A friend receives the tragic news of the death of his high-school-aged son in a car accident. We know we are called to be there. What do we say?

A coworker is called into the supervisor's office and given the news that her job is terminated because of restructuring. We know we are called to help her. What do we say?

A classmate motions to us in the hallway outside the classroom. We have studied all night for the big test. "You've got to help me out," he pleads. "Sit where I can see your paper. I need to pass this!" We know we are called to be a Christian witness. What do we say?

A college student has seen us as a role model and mentor. He confides in us that he is not sure he believes in God. We know our words could make a difference. What do we say?

You are attending the monthly council meeting. I turn to you and ask you to offer the opening prayer. You believe in the power of prayer. What do you say?

We remember, trust and share the Epiphany/Lent Good News that Christ is the Light of the world that shines in the darkness and is always with us enabling and guiding our Christ-centered words and actions. Enjoy living out our Christian faith in all kinds of life situations and circumstances being amazed at Christ's words that come through us.

Epiphany and Lent blessings,

Pastor Paul Meeker

ASH WEDNESDAY
February 17, 2010
7:00 p.m.
Communion Worship

Wednesday
February 24, 2010
7:00 p.m.
Lenten Worship

Ministry of the Month – ELCA Disaster Relief

Considering the devastation experienced in Haiti recently, our Ministry of the Month for February is ELCA Disaster Relief. This is not one of the congregation's adopted benevolences, so no pre-designated donation has been budgeted. However, we hope you will join us in helping to alleviate the suffering of the Haitian people as part of this month's giving.

-- *Social Concerns Ministry*



SYCAMORE TREE PRESCHOOL

On January 7, 2010 our staff and several other early childhood programs were recognized for our exceptional commitment to working together to prepare young children for success at the Bremerton School District Board Meeting. The Sycamore Tree Preschool is part of the *Early Childhood Care & Education* group who work together in collaboration with the Bremerton School District to build and promote early literacy and math skills.

The preschool staff will be attending and participating in "*Planting the Seeds of the Future*" an early childhood conference that will be held on Saturday, February 27, at Olympic College. Sue Myhre and I will be presenting a workshop on *Developmentally Appropriate Preschool Conferences*. Presenting workshops, assisting with registration and attending classes at early childhood conferences allows our preschool staff to continue our early childhood education, improve our professional growth and enhance the quality of our program. This year our staff will also help distribute lunches and clean-up classrooms in exchange for three conference scholarships.

Our next preschool board meeting will be on February 22 at 6:30 at the preschool. Meetings are open to everyone...Come join us!

"Gratitude consists of being more aware of what you have, than what you don't."

Unknown

Andrea Campbell

Parish Education Coordinator

I guess we are still in the quiet winter months right now, because I don't seem to have much to write about. I had so little to report last month that I didn't even write an article. After our busy November and December, it seems a bit strange.

We had a wonderful turn out for our new adult education class on January 10 being taught by Ron Cleveland. We even need to order more participant books! The class includes a DVD to watch and Ron reported to me that the people who attend really enjoy seeing some of the actual areas in the Holy Land mentioned in the curriculum.

One of our elementary students, Matt Young, has come up with an idea of something to make and have available for congregation members to purchase. All funds will go towards our Sunday School offerings for the Jua Lekundu Foundation. We will be working on this craft project during Lent and should have the items for you to purchase at, or just before, Easter. Matt came up with this idea on his own, so I hope we will all support this project.

Be sure to watch the bulletin board in the fellowship hall for updated information as it becomes available.

Patricia L. Dunlap (Patty)

BIBLE STUDIES

In February many Bible study groups continue. The **First Thursday Bible study group** meets in the Fireside Room at 10:30 a.m. with a potluck lunch. We are studying the book of Romans. The **Monday Bible study group** meets in the Fireside Room at 10 a.m. We are studying the book of Colossians. The **Sunday morning Bible study group** meets in the Fellowship Hall at 9 a.m. Come and participate in any one of these wonderful Bible study opportunities.

COUNCIL REPORT

Once again I find myself having been elected as president of the church council, and once again I look forward to that experience and the challenges that it brings. The first council meeting for this year started with all members taking part in video/discussion series to help us to be more effective leaders while serving on church council.

On a very positive note we ended 2009 with a very small amount of money left over. This is something to truly be grateful for since we were over \$6000 in a budget hole for part of the year. As a member of the Stewardship Committee and as your President, I continue to be humbled by the dedication and generosity that exists within our congregation.

In previous years, council has struggled to identify the need and find funding for a position on staff to run our youth and family programs and ministries. This continues to be a topic that is being worked on, and further defined/refined. The Parish Ed Coordinator's (Patty Dunlap) duties have expanded to provide input and to make some recommendations to council in the Fall of this year.

The possibility of a contemporary service becoming a reality at OSLC is actively being planned, with a designated committee hammering out the details. More information on this service will be updated as it becomes available.

As we begin this new year, I would like to encourage and challenge each member to extend a warm welcome to our visitors in the church each week, but more importantly to extend that warm welcome and invitation to people outside our church.

In His Service
Dave Burns,
Council President

IN OUR PRAYERS

Every Sunday on the back page of the bulletin, names are listed for those with Health Concerns, Deployed Military, our Missionary and our Adopt-A-Cop Bremerton Police Officer. The following is a list of members who are unable to be with us at worship on Sunday because of age or health restrictions and those with long-term health concerns. We encourage you to save this page of the *Messenger* and include these people in your daily prayers.

Dick Davis
Scott Carter
Kathy (Kemmer) Gaddis
Paul Baumgaertner
Margaret Arnold
Denise Yager
Dorothy Allred
Lisa Bolinger
Gene Lewis
Eleanor Moore

Katherine Peterson
Sylvia Worth
Dolores Pappas
Preston Stallings
Ingeborg Seidel
Lucille Denzer
Vi Leader
Al Smith
Henry Bakken

FAMILY OR FRIENDS WITH HEALTH CONCERNS:

David Farkas
Wallace Greetan
Bob Beck
Dori Crenshaw
Tammy Wall
Merlin J. Ewert
Cortney Wilkinson
Jeannee Lewis
Louis Tertocha
Cailey LaPrath

We apologize if we have left anyone off this list. Please contact the church office, 479-6374 and share with us the name to be included.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Could you hear the shouting coming from the direction of Tacoma on January 6th? Yes, we were all celebrating Epiphany that day, but also that was the day that I was approved for ordination by my candidacy committee! That means that I am eligible for a call somewhere in the ELCA as long as I successfully complete my seminary degree. That does not appear to be a concern at this point, since I only need three more credits to graduate and I am registered for those for spring semester.

After my approval interview in Tacoma I had a wonderful lunch and conversation with Pastor Paul. I hope he told you all about it. I don't know who is more excited about my ordination—him or me. He is really hoping that I will be called back to the Southwestern Washington Synod and who knows, as Synod Dean, maybe he can arrange things that I don't know about. I should let you know that I have included the Southwestern Washington Synod as one of my synods of preference, but I am also making myself available to the whole church without restriction, so wherever I am called, whether there or some other area of the country, I believe it will be by the power of the Holy Spirit. I will find out my regional assignment around the middle of the month, so I will let you know as soon as I know.

Now I have a request of you. Some unfortunate things have happened here at Luther Seminary and I would like you to join me in holding this seminary, as well as all of the other ELCA seminaries, up in prayer. As of February 1st we are without our Dean of Students, Patricia Lull, our Seminary Pastor, John Mann, and his assistant, Laurie Mandery. These positions have all been transitioned or downsized because of budget constraints. You may have read in some other publications that some people are encouraging those who are disappointed with the voting results at the last church-wide assembly to withhold their contributions from the ELCA. Here is the practical result of that withholding. Good people are losing their jobs, and the future leadership of the ELCA is being compromised. Please pray that the Holy Spirit would guide our church in a way that reflects the will of God so that we are able to fulfill the Great Commission to spread the gospel.

As my time of living at Luther Seminary comes nearer and nearer to completion Anna and I get more and more anxious about what will happen next. It seems odd that we have no idea where we will be living by the middle of summer this year. It sure makes it hard to plan ahead! But you should know that I am so thankful

for you and your support of prayers, letters and gifts that I know there is no way I could ever adequately repay you. I hope knowing that I am grateful to you and constantly pray for you will be enough for now. God bless you all!

Peace,
Don Short

Angels and Saints

Thank you to all those who contributed warm clothes or food to last month's angels vs. saints drive. Whether 10 lbs of rice outweighed an extra-large coat is beside the point. The real winners are the people in the Bremerton community. Thanks again.

-- *Social Concerns Ministry*

SENIOR LUNCH BUNCH

The Senior Lunch Bunch will go to the Taprock Cafe in Poulsbo on Friday, February 19. Sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall. Please indicate there if you will ride the bus (leaves church lot 11:30 am.), need a ride to church, or if you will meet us at the restaurant. ALL SENIORS WELCOME! Questions? Please call Pastor Tom Kangas, 478-6413. SEE YOU THERE!

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

The recent devastating earthquake in Haiti reminds us of the urgent need for our donations of health kits. In a recent email message, John Nunes, President and CEO of Lutheran World Relief included the following information:

"Many of you have asked what else you can do to help. I am writing today to alert you of an opportunity.

Today, along with partners at Church World Service, we sent a shipment of health kits and layettes to Haiti. That shipment depleted our stock of health kits in the Maryland warehouse. And we will need many more to fulfill needs in the coming weeks and months.

Will you help us fulfill the need for health kits, quilts and school kits? We want to bring relief and comfort to the people of Haiti, but we also need to continue to fulfill requests from around the world. To do this, we need your help. Here's how:

...Continue to give generously, Make health kits, quilts, and school kits..., Bring your items to one of the spring Ingathering collections...

Thanks for being God's hands and heart to those in need in Haiti and across the world. I look forward to sending you more reports on how your love is helping to restore lives."

Our spring Ingathering shipment will be packed at the end of April for early May shipment. Please begin shopping now for those desperately-needed health supplies: Hand towels and wash cloths in

darker colors, toothbrushes, wide-tooth combs, individually wrapped bath soap, nail files or nail clippers, and adhesive bandages (3/4 or 1") If you wish to pack your own complete kits, wrap all items tightly in the hand towel and tie into a bundle with yarn or ribbon. Do not include extras ("Why did the aid worker give my neighbor that soap dish when I didn't get one?") If you wish to donate items for partial kits, we will assemble these into kits in April

If you wish to send your kits immediately, call the church office for shipping information, but be assured that the need will continue well beyond our May shipping date.

THRIVENT FINANCIAL MEMBERS INVITED TO JOIN IN \$3 MILLION HELPING HAITI EFFORT.

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans members who want to make a financial contribution to support disaster response efforts in Haiti can have their donations to one of four Lutheran relief agencies multiplied by the fraternal benefit society.

To participate, visit www.thrivent.com/helpinghaiti and make a contribution to one of the following:

Lutheran World Relief
ELCA Disaster Response
LCMS World Relief/Human Care
WELS Committee on Relief

Thrivent Financial will add \$1 to every \$2 its members donate, up to a total Thrivent Financial contribution of \$1 million. That means a potential of \$3 million or more to support relief efforts: \$2 million + from its members and \$1 million added by Thrivent Financial.

For questions or alternative ways to donate through this program, please call 800-236-3736. When promoted, say "directory" and enter ext. 83003.

SUNDAY MORNING COFFEE HOUR

Hosts are needed for the Sunday morning coffee hour following the 10:30 a.m. worship service. Sign up sheet is located on the wall by the kitchen counter.

56 Ways to Help the Homeless in Kitsap County

Virtually everyone is aware of the homeless problem in our area and many want to help. Too often, people just don't know how to get involved. The following tips are provided to show 56 small ways you can become personally involved in alleviating homelessness in Kitsap County. (Several tips will be printed each month until all 56 have been printed.)

6. Donate bus tokens to help homeless veterans get to work. Contact Retsil Veteran's Home, 360-895-4346
7. Donate board games, dart boards, or DVDs to the Retsil Veterans Home to help better the lives of veterans. Contact Retsil Veteran's Home.
8. Donate gift cards to the Retsil Veterans Home to help homeless veterans during the holidays. Contact Retsil Veteran's Home.

9. Help prepare and serve the evening meal for single homeless men and homeless men with children at Benedict House, 460-405-9486.
10. Donate coffee, sugar, creamer, laundry soap, or dish detergent to Benedict House for Homeless Men. Contact Benedict House.
11. Donate gas cards or bus tokens so these living in their vehicles or in shelters can get to training, meal sites, and job interviews. Contact Benedict House or Kitsap Community Resources, 360-377-0053.

Brochures with all 56 ways to help are located in the narthex.

OUR SAVIOUR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

1015 Veneta
Bremerton, WA 98337
Phone #360-479-6374
oslc.bremerton@gmail.com

YOU'RE INVITED TO A POTLUCK WORKPARTY

Wednesday, February 3, from 4 to 7 p.m.

We'll meet in the kitchen. Cleaning and organizing the kitchen will be our first priority. As we continue to meet on the first Wednesday of the month, we'll expand to other tasks around the church.

Come when you are able and leave when you must. The potluck will be at 6 p.m.

IT'S MY TURN!

Things just are not done the way they used to be. Sound familiar? That is very true around Our Saviour's. One of the ways is that we depend more on volunteers.

Have you noticed how nice the Memorial Gardens and the flower beds in front of the church look? Thank you to Rick and Ruth Richtmyer for all their hard work. They worked all summer on the transformation and did a great job!

Hedges need trimming? Thank you to Paul Baumgaertner who has been keeping the hedges around the church grounds trimmed this past year.

Parking lot looking messy? You might find Larry Burgua here on a weekend blowing off the debris. Thank you Larry!

Take a walk around the church and you will find some new improvements to the preschool yard. Andrea Campbell volunteered all summer putting in many hours weeding, raking, clearing, planting, etc. The yard around the preschool has never looked better.

Can't find Pastor Meeker in his office? Check outside! Pastor Meeker got into the spirit of helping in the great outdoors and has been cleaning gutters and raking leaves.

Thank all our volunteers when you see them, their gifts are greatly appreciated.

If you are able to volunteer for phone duty in the church office while I am on vacation, please give me a call, 479-6374. I will need volunteers throughout the year for all my vacation time.

Becki

Olympic Lutherhaven - President's Message January 24, 2010

Another year has passed with much going on at Lutherhaven. It was a good year at the camp with full use through the summer with camps, picnics and people just enjoying the camp and lake. We are very blessed to have such a beautiful and special place to serve our member families and youth.

Highlights of the last year include:

- Completion of Cabin #8.
- Repair of the picnic side drain field.
- Replacement of the compressor unit of the walk-in freezer at the Lodge.
- New sand spread at the picnic and camp side beaches.
- Clearing over the picnic side drain field to eliminate roots growing into the drain lines.
- Wiring of the 2 pavilions for power and lighting – thanks to Dick Maxwell.
- Rewriting of some of the camp policies included pet, swimming and boating rules.
- Recycling stations built on the picnic and camp sites.

Future projects include:

- Renovate the lodge kitchen, replacing the center island and sink.
- Rebuild the removed exterior stairs at the Lodge.
- Continue remodeling of the old changing rooms.
- Finish the Craft Shed.

I would like to extend special thanks for the last year:

To all the donors and volunteers over the last year, your help, and support are so important in keeping the camp going. I am very grateful for your generosity and sacrifices this last year.

To the Board members, for your time spent planning events/projects, attending meetings and your work at the camp, especially Shelly Ferber for being the VP, Larry Ficca for his time and work as treasurer and Tony Pinto for his time and effort as secretary.

To Bill and Barb Erickson for funding Cabin 8 and Bill for all the time and effort in the planning, pre-fab work and of course his work at the cabin. It's primarily due to Barb and Bill that Cabin #8 was rebuilt. Also, Bill has been the monthly and special work party's coordinator, which has made my job so much easier that's it's hard to imagine what this job would be like without him.

To Dave and Norene Reeves. Dave is a man of many talents and to our benefit he is often using them at the camp. Norene does an exceptional job to organize and keep the camp season running efficiently and smoothly. Her many contacts such as the Boy Scouts, Royal Rangers, etc., often result in additional volunteers taking on new projects or supporting on-going projects. We benefit greatly from this additional support and many projects have been completed that probably would not have been done without this help. Dave and Norene's care of the camp is exceptional, and very important to the continued success of the camp.

To Bruce Christopherson and Ace Paving for donating several truck loads of sand for the picnic and camp side beaches. Bruce, his family and Ace Paving have been very generous to the camp since it's beginning and their support is much appreciated.

We had a very sad and sobering experience this summer when a young man swimming off the property next to Lutherhaven drowned. This coincided with the night of our Board meeting, so we were present while they were searching the lake. Dave and Norene helped support the search team and the Lodge was made available to the family of the young man while the search was on going. It was apparent what a tragic event this was for the family. Since we had already begun some discussions on our swimming and boating rules, it gave us something

to think about. Additionally, the extra warm weather this summer increased the use of the picnic side greatly on some days, which of course increases the risks. As we discussed the rules, these situation were in our thoughts as well as meeting each congregations desires and needs, reducing costs and burdens, keeping camp time fun, but utmost, keeping all campers safe. We need to make sure that one of our priorities is the safety of all our camp users, especially our youth. The Board and Caretakers need the cooperation and help of all guests to ensure everyone has a fun time at the camp but also a safe experience.

There is always need for volunteers from member congregations to maintain Lutherhaven - monthly work parties are held on the first Saturday of each month, from 8:30 till early afternoon (or whatever your time and schedule allow) with lunch normally provided by Norene. If interested in volunteering let your church office or one of your Board members know and we will get your name on the contact list for the work party e-mail reminders.

We are also looking for someone to coordinate the planning and rebuilding of another of the old cabins. If interested in this, please contact your church office or one of your Board members.

Thank you again so much for your support this last year.

I am completing my second year as president and do not plan to run again. However, I plan to continue on the Board one more year which will complete my second term. It has been an interesting and good experience working with the Board and Caretakers on the many challenges encountered and I especially enjoyed the fun and fellowship that is a part of this work.

Ron Cleveland, President
2008 Olympic Lutherhaven Board of Directors

February 2010

Dear Women of Our Saviour's,

February is traditionally the month of love. It is also traditionally the month of our Love Offering, which we use to help extend our love to work in our community and in the world. Many people depend on our help.

The total offering will be divided among the following local charities:

Martha & Mary Lutheran Services
Senior Outreach Services (LCS)
Our Saviour's Deacons' Fund
Bremerton Foodline

Please search your hearts and give to these worthy causes.

Join us for the First Thursday Bible Study and potluck lunch at 10:30 a.m. on the first Thursday of each month in the fellowship hall! We have a great Bible study, great food, and great fellowship! Mark your calendars!

Bring your offering in the envelope provided to the First Thursday Bible Study, mail it to the above address, or you may drop the envelope in the collection plate during any regular church service.

Thank you!

Women's Board of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church