



THE MESSENGER

Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church

www.beautifulsaviorlutheran.com

**It's up and running!
Go check it out!**

Worship times—8:30

**and 11 AM with Adult
Forum and Sunday
School in between at
9:45 AM.**



DECEMBER 2009

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

**Join us for Christmas
Eve Candlelight ser-
vices!**

*“Celebrating,
Deepening,
and Sharing in
God’s Love.”*

5:00 PM

7:00 PM

w/choir & bells

10:30 PM

w/choir & bells

Holy Communion



From Pastor Jaech

Dear Friends in Christ,

I want to thank all of you at Beautiful Savior for being a healthy, lively congregation in so many ways. During the past month, I have been particularly thankful for the healthy way in which church members have been able to discuss together issues about which they have different opinions and positions. Such honest conversations, while challenging, are a true sign of the health of a community and also a means by which that community grows stronger.

A crucial ingredient for any important relationship is the ability to sit down and talk together. That is true for families, friends, co-workers and church communities. It's easiest of course, to talk about shared dreams and joys. It's more difficult when it's our differences and conflicts that we need to discuss. Bringing up our disagreements feels very scary to most of us. Often in our relationships, we avoid talking about our disagreements and hope they will go away on their own. Most of the time, they don't. They grind away underneath the surface.

During the past month, two important conversations took place among members of Beautiful Savior. A good number of members gathered together for our three-week Adult Forum series on The Bible and Homosexuality. A good group of members also gathered for two discussion meetings on the topic of applause in church following choir and musical offerings. In both of these settings, there were many different opinions and positions in the room. (We often assume there are just two positions, "us" and "them"; in reality there are often a number of ways that people are looking at an issue.)

In all the discussions, I was very impressed by how people were able to strongly and honestly state their view. This was followed by clear, honest reactions from people that had a different view. Those are

the beginning ingredients for healthy conversation and problem-solving: talking and responding, then talking some more in order to get clearer about the issue.

I noticed in our discussions that a bigger challenge for participants was to understand the position of the other person. The first step is to state our own view; the next step is to understand what the other people are saying. I'm not talking about whether we *agree* with what the other person is saying, but, for starters, do we *understand* what they are saying and why they are saying it. That's difficult for most of us to do, but once again, a willingness to sit down and talk is the way for understanding to happen.

Many times we feel that if differences or conflicts exist at all, then we have failed as a community. To avoid this feeling of failure, we avoid bringing our disagreements up with each other. However, God creates us with many different ideas, insights and perspectives. Therefore, wherever friends, family or church gather, there will be some differences about something. When people get together to discuss and work through their differences, it is not a sign of failure, but a sign of their health and strength.

Therefore, once again I want to say thank you for being a healthy and strong congregation, including your ability to sit down and discuss complicated topics. Your willingness to be present at these gatherings shows that you honor and value your relationships. Your strength in stating your own view and then listening to the view of someone else is the best way we have for digging deeper towards the truth.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Rick Jaech



From Rachel (Director of Faith Formation)

Sunday School in Full Swing!!

Every Sunday from 9:45 – 10:45, we have Christian education options for every age. Pre-school kids gather with Sharon Matthews, Laura Blaisdell, and Anne Cozens, elementary age kids are with Sid Wiggs, and middle schoolers and high schoolers are with Rachel Brocker, Patrick Callahan, Teague Coley, and Nicole McDonald. Nursery care is also available. Please consider bringing your kids to the education hour while you try out our adult forum!!!

25th Annual Inter-Service Walk and Knock

Mark your calendars – Saturday, December 5th, Beautiful Savior will send a team to help with the Clark County Walk and Knock. In 2008 the effort collected just over 141 tons of food and over \$35,000 for local food banks. Please plan to participate either as a walker or driver in this year's event. There is a sign-up sheet on the board or talk to Rachel Brocker for more information.

Christmas Program

Calling all young people! We have begun practicing for our annual Christmas program, which will be performed Sunday, December 20th during the Sunday School hour. Please plan to be at rehearsals with Jordi Yokers, our choir director, on December 6th and 13th.

Love and Logic @ Regroup

Sunday, December 6th. Regroup is meeting from 12:15 – 1:45 for our next Love and Logic class! Parents with children middle school age and younger are invited to attend for a time of learning and support. Childcare will be provided.



Are you interested in....

Camping?

Retreats?

Outdoor Activities?

Come to a meeting after church on Sunday, December 13th, and share your ideas. We will meet in the fellowship hall from 12:15-1:15. Snacks and childcare will be provided.



EDUCATION NEWS ...

ADULT FORUMS IN DECEMBER

Join us at 9:45am in the sanctuary each Sunday for an interesting study and discussion.

Dec. 6 Advent stories in the Gospel of Luke, Part I.
A Bible study led by Pastor Jaech

Dec. 13 Advent stories in the Gospel of Luke, Part II.

Dec. 20 The Christmas Program presented by the children of the Sunday School.

Dec. 27 No Adult Forum or Sunday School

WEDNESDAY AT CHURCH!!

Wednesday Night @ Church is in full swing!! Not only do you not have to fix the meal, you get to eat out with some of the best company in town. Last year there was an average attendance at dinner of 65-70 people from Beautiful Savior. Come, bring the kids and enjoy the evening. Dinner at 5:30 PM! **No classes on December 23 and 30. Wednesday @ Church will resume on January 6th.**

How could anyone pass this up? Even the price is right. There is a suggested donation of \$5 to help cover costs, but **everyone eats**, regardless of whether they donate.

Of course there is more, much more, than just the dinner hour. **Cherub and children's choirs** rehearse before dinner (4:30 PM). **Bell choir and adult choir** rehearse after dinner. **Confirmation class** (see related article) and **high school youth group** meet after dinner, as well as the very thought provoking **Bible studies** led by Gerald Hoffman. Nursery and supervised activities for children are provided.

This is an opportunity for whole families, single people, older people and young ones to come together and enjoy getting better acquainted. At the same time we are being enriched by our common desire to celebrate and enrich our faith. No doubt about it, Beautiful Savior is **the** place to be on Wednesday evenings. See you there!

Spanish Class!

As part of our Wednesday at Church program, Pastor Abel Gomez, is teaching Spanish to those that are interested. There maybe be a nominal fee for materials. Join Pastor Gomez on Wednesday nights at 6:30 PM!

Comfort and Hope Worship Service

A Comfort and Hope worship service is scheduled for Wednesday, December 16 at 6:00pm at Messiah Lutheran Church in Hazel Dell. This worship is especially designed for those grieving any kind of loss, those suffering physical, emotional or relational pain and for those who care for others. It is being sponsored by Messiah's Stephen Ministers.

If you or someone you know is facing a difficult Christmas season this year, plan on coming to this service of Comfort and Hope.

Messiah Lutheran Church
905 NW 94th St.
Vancouver, WA 98665



Opportunities to learn, share, and grow ...

WINTER HOSPITALITY OVERFLOW OPPORTUNITY!

Members of Beautiful Savior again have the opportunity to serve Vancouver's homeless community by volunteering time or donating food to the Winter Hospitality Overflow program. Our congregation signed up to provide hosts and food at St Andrews Lutheran Church starting the evening of December 13 through the morning of the 20th, 2009. St Andrews accepts women and families at their site and the need is greater than ever for a safe, warm place for those displaced from their homes to stay. There is room for up to 50 guests at the overflow shelter each night this year so your gracious help is needed! **Please look for the sign up sheet and detailed information in the narthex.** Dave Hellerud and Heide Maize would enjoy sharing their experiences and other information if you are interested – please contact us.

Youthful Volunteers Make Wednesday Night @ Church a Continuing Success!

At 5:30 on Wednesday nights, an average of 60 diners of all ages feast on a rotating menu of favorite foods in addition to engaging in fellowship—enjoying a program that remains very popular at Beautiful Savior. After the meal people go on to their separate activities: Confirmation Classes, Bell and Senior Choir practices, Bible Study, and even Spanish classes.

WN@C has enjoyed success because of the hard work of a consistent group of volunteers. Middle Schooler Landon Snyder has taken the lead in the set-up work (formerly handled by his older brother, Evan). Each week he sets out plates, napkins, forks, water pitchers and the like to prepare the room for the meal which is ordered and brought in by a rotating group of adult volunteers. After the meal, a hardy group of teenagers can be found cleaning up the remains of the meal and taking out the garbage. Many others also pitch in as they see a need. Their weekly efforts have made the program run remarkably smoothly.

While we purchase the food from various restaurants (Sweet Tomatoes, Green Tea Chinese, Muchas Gracias, Pizza) Don and Shannon Fitzgerald make the Sub Sandwiches and Cheryl Heiserman occasionally takes a turn at catering. Anyone interested in cooking for a large group once or twice a year would be gladly welcomed!

DINNER SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER:

Dec 2 - Muchas Gracias

Dec 9 - Sandwiches

Dec 16 - Pizza

INTERFAITH DAY OF SERVICE

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

January 18

On Monday, January 18, in the New Year, people from the various faith communities in Vancouver will join together in acts of service to others. We will do this on Martin Luther King, Jr., Day in honor of his service to all. Christians, Jews, Muslims and many more will work in teams and can choose among five areas of service that have been organized ahead of time:

- Paint a mural
- Build a home
- Plant a tree
- Quilt
- Serve a meal

The day will start with breakfast and conversation together at the Luepke Center, 1009 E. Mcloughlin Blvd, Vancouver. The work projects will take place from 10AM to 1PM. A sign-up sheet will be on the narthex wall. Talk to Pastor Jaech for more information

FROM JERRY RHODES:

Thank you all very much for your generous contributions of support and medical supplies for the mission to Mauno, Uganda, next January. As contributions have come in, we've narrowed the scope of our needs: Pain killers (aspirin, ibuprofen, tylenol, aleve/naproxen) in various doses so we have children's doses, too; Imodium tablets (not liquid); vitamins and minerals (vitamin C 50mg; riboflavin tablets 5 mg; thiamine tablets 50 mg). Most of the children's medicines are needed in liquid form, which we can't carry with us. So any monetary contribution earmarked for children's medicines will be wired to the nonprofit Anthill Foundation Uganda so the drugs can be purchased there before we arrive. ~ Jerry

CAN YOU HELP OUR CHURCH GROUNDS STAY BEAUTIFUL?

We are blessed with a number of volunteers that take care of our church grounds and keep them beautiful. But, we could use a few more. In particular, we need some members who will care for the flower beds on both sides of the church entryway. We also need some members who will sweep and care for our beautiful labyrinth area behind the church. This does not require one person to come up each week and work long hours. A better way would be for a few families or a group of friends to adopt the labyrinth or one of the two garden areas and then take turns coming to church every 2-4 weeks to tend to that area. Talk to your friends to see if they want to do that with you! Call us at the church office to tell us where you want to volunteer!

BROWN BAG COLLECTIONS FOR THE NEW YEAR

As you bring in the New Year and clean closets after Christmas, remember our brown bag needs at church. Coats will be collected during January to be given to those in need of warm garments. Brown bags will be available on January 10th to be returned with coats by January 31st for delivery to the shelters.

Diapers and personal care items will be collected during February.

Your extras can bring comfort to those with none.

~ Your Social Ministries Committee



A LITTLE GREEN TEAM NEWS

Sunset Magazine, December 2008, had an article called The Sustainable Holiday by Allison Arieff, which related the disturbing statistic that Christmas Eve and Christmas Day generate three billion extra tons of garbage annually. The following are some ideas for reducing that figure:

PURCHASING::

1. Buy locally
2. Vintage stores have interesting, one of a kind items.
3. Fair trade products give twice---once to the producer and once to the receiver.
4. If you are giving a new cell phone as a gift, be sure to recycle the old one. The YWCA will use them in their battered women's program or check with www.cellphonesforsoldiers.com Two very worthwhile programs.
5. Something hand made is always thoughtful.

DECORATING FOR THE HOLIDAYS:

1. Reuse what you already have.
2. If you want something new or need more lights, check with a thrift store. Its amazing what people have donated to these businesses.
3. Use LED Christmas lights.
4. Challenge yourself to make a decoration out of material you already have.
5. Be sure to turn off those lights when you retire each evening.

GIFT WRAPPING:

1. Now is the time to get out those gift bags you saved from last year.
2. Wrap a small gift in a wool scarf or hide it in a new pair of mittens.
3. A loaf of Christmas bread wraps up nicely in a new kitchen towel.
4. Wrap a small box in a colorful page from a magazine.
5. One large roll of the same kind of paper wraps more gifts than several smaller rolls of different patterns.
6. Make gift bags from fabric scraps.
7. Be sure to save your gift bags from this year for next year and remember fabric and French wire ribbon can be used again too.

WHAT TO GIVE?:

That of course is up to you, but, here are two ideas that keep on giving and don't have to be wrapped:

1. Go to a store that has a lay-a-way plan and pay off some ones remaining balance. Can't you just imagine how thrilling that would be for a mom or dad who is struggling with Christmas expenses!!!
2. A contribution to NW Nature GAP (gas assistance program). This fund aids low income families with their natural gas payments and keep some child or grandparent a little warmer this winter.

Have a GREEN Christmas and remember the greatest gift of all is Gods gift to us---Jesus!



UPDATE ON CONVERSATION ABOUT APPLAUSE IN CHURCH

On November 15, after the second service, approximately 35 members participated in a conversation about applause during worship. It was a very good and open conversation in which many different viewpoints were expressed. Everyone present expressed approval for clapping during hymns and also liked clapping in recognition of special moments or people, such as when new members are welcomed in. There were different feelings, however, about applause when the choir or a soloist sings, or when the hand bell choir or a musical soloist plays.

Some people present liked being able to applaud, both as an expression of thanks to the choir and also as a natural expression of praise to God. They felt that their clapping was a natural, spirited way of joining in with praise, which the choir music drew forth from them.

Other people present said that applause for the choirs created a feeling of being at a concert and hearing a performance, rather being in worship. They preferred sitting in silence at the end of a choir piece, which allowed the beauty of the music to enter deeply and kept the flow of liturgy intact.

Another issue that came up in the conversation was the question of how we make decisions together when we have different opinions about something. Many people present didn't like the idea of creating a new "rule" about behavior. It was also noted, however, that whatever the majority practice is, that is the unspoken "rule".

No decisions were made at this meeting. Many present said that it would be good to think further about this topic and look for creative solutions that would best honor everybody's need for meaningful worship. The agreement was that everyone who was interested would think and pray for good ideas about what to do. In January, there will be a meeting where everyone will once again be invited to attend and participate.

TAKING CARE DURING FLU SEASON

To reduce health risks during this heightened flu season, we are observing the following safety steps at church:

- Bottles of hand sanitizer are available throughout the church, including on the way up to Communion.
- The pastor, cantor and communion assistants all wash or sanitize their hands prior to distributing communion.
- We continue to share the Peace during the service, but members may make their own choice about whether they want to shake hands or not at this time.

We encourage everyone to use good judgment about staying home if they have an infectious disease. If you have on-going coughs, use handkerchiefs and be sensitive to those around you.

Thank you for your help and consideration during this time. Pray for yourself and everyone!