



THE MESSENGER

Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church

www.beautifulsaviorlutheran.com

**Check out our website.
It's full of information
and it's updated regularly!** *(Thanks Shannon!)*

WORSHIP TIMES:

8:30 and 11 AM

Sunday School & Adult Forum at 9:45 AM



The Messenger

December 2010

Worship for the Holidays

**Thanksgiving Eve Worship—
November 24 at 7 PM**

We will gather at church to give special thanks to God for all the blessings of this past year. You are invited to bring an item from home (a picture, keepsake, toy, etc ..) which symbolizes something which you are thankful for.

During the sermon time (if you wish), Pastor Jaech will invite you to share a short story about what you brought and why the item makes you thankful.

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

Christmas Eve Worship—

Friday, December 24th

5:00 PM Candlelight Worship

7:00 PM Candlelight Worship

10:30 PM Candlelight

w/Holy Communion

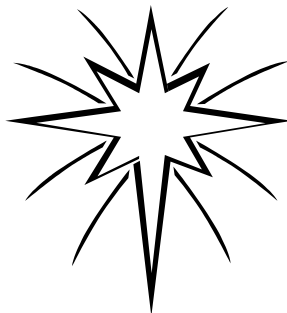
CHRISTMAS CAROLING

Sunday, December 19, 5PM

“Hark, the herald angels sing,

Glory to the newborn king!”

Come join us for a lovely time of caroling at the homes of church members who have difficulty getting out to church. We will meet at the church at 5PM on Sunday, December 19, and carpool to members' homes. They will love hearing the Christmas carols and we will love bringing to them a bit of Christmas joy and love. At the end of our caroling we will return to church for cider and pizza!





From Pastor Jaech

Dear Friends in Christ,

It's Advent season and, for four weeks, we will enjoy seeing altar paraments and candles that are a deep and beautiful blue. This deep color of Advent makes me think of a number of things all at once.

Dark, rich blue makes me think of the night sky above Bethlehem and of the child, Jesus, waiting to be born. We are drawn to follow the path of Mary and Joseph as they are led to that holy place of birth.

Dark, rich blue is also the color of mystery and change. God is stirring up something new for us, but it is still partly hidden in the rich night of Advent. At this time of year, children will regularly ask their parents, "What am I getting for Christmas this year? What's inside the wrapped present?" We can also be asking God, "What are you about to present to us, O Lord? What are you cooking up for us right now?" Advent is a season of mystery and unfolding. It draws us in to see what God is about to do next, both for us and for the whole world.

The deep blue also makes me think of a deep, clear, flowing river that you can look down into and see all kinds of shimmering shapes. In fact, if you look at the frontal piece on the altar in church, you may see river rocks and signs of the river current moving along. The season of Advent brings to mind the waters of birth and also the waters of Holy Baptism. God is coming to us with a river of healing and grace. It is not just Jesus who is about to be born. God is also in the process of

bringing new birth and new life to each one of us. In the same way that you look into the water and see your reflection, look into the deep blue of Advent and see your self being formed as a new person.

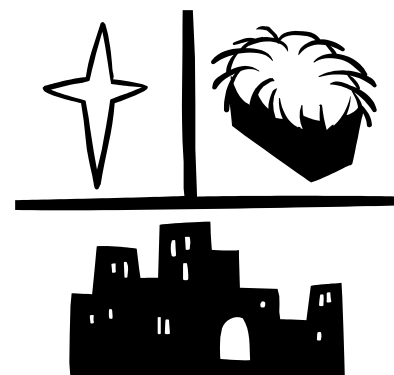
Around us at this time of year are flashing lights, excited voices, clanging cash registers, and frantic rushing. Christmas sometimes becomes a sprint to the finish line followed by exhaustion.

With its deep, blue color, Advent invites us to step out of the frantic rush and, instead, retreat into a quiet and reflective place. Like bears in a cave, Advent calls us to hibernate, heal and rest, while new life forms within us.

My advice for all of us is to set aside as many moments as possible in the weeks ahead to peer into to the deep, mysterious blue of Advent. Sit there on the edge of night and search among the shadows and the stars that are both around us and within us. God is forming something new and beautiful for us. What exactly will it be this year...?

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Rick Jaech





CALLED TO CARE ...

Sunday School and Adult Forum

Adult Forum meets every Sunday at 9:45am in the Church Fellowship next door to the Coffee Hour area. The purpose of Adult Forum is to help adult members grow in faith and spiritual grounding. Discussions are held on a variety of topics.

- Nov. 28 Advent Festival: Come and prepare for Christ's birth with music, conversation and Advent crafts. An intergenerational event.
- Dec. 5 What are the stresses in preparing for Christmas? What can we do to make Advent and Christmas a more healing time?
- Dec. 12 Sunday School Christmas program, held in the sanctuary.
- Dec. 19 What are the traditions of Advent? Where did they originate?
- Dec. 26 No Adult Forum or Sunday School

Called to Care:

Reflections from Adult Forum discussions

BSLC is putting its collective energy into a focus of being *Called to Care* within our church community, in the Clark County area, and in the world. In *Called to Care* Adult Forum on November 7th and 14th, Pastor Jaech asked participants to consider how compassion is at the heart of God's love for us. Scripture gives examples of God's compassion and how God commands us to be instruments of healing, love, and care. Examples include: ...

Exodus 3:7-8, "I have heard the cry of my people..."

Jeremiah 29: 4-7, "Seek the welfare of the city."

1 John 4: 7-12, "Let us love one another."

We reflected on *Called to Care* within the context of the Scripture verses by discussing these questions:

Who is God calling us to care for?

What does that care "look like?"

What makes it easy or hard to care for others?

How can BSLC equip its members to be *Called to Care*?

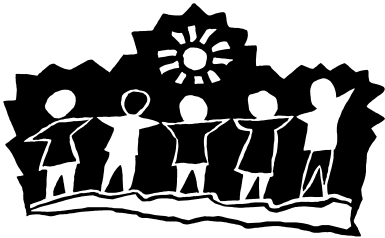
This was a rich and meaningful discussion. Ideas and answers to the questions will be shared regularly in upcoming newsletters, church bulletins, and during worship. You are encouraged to consider the Scripture verses and accompanying discussion questions on your own or within your family. If you have ideas or suggestions for *Called to Care*, please see Pastor Jaech, Rachel Brocker, or Charlene Welch.





Christmas Program Practice

Sunday School kids, kindergarten through high school will be practicing for this year's Christmas program during education hour on December 5th. The program will be performed December 12th during the education hour. See you there!



YOUTH MINISTRY FUNDRAISING

Eighteen households from church have already given \$2,000 in special gifts or pledges for our 2011 Youth Ministry. Thank you!! Our goal is to raise at least \$10,000 or more by December 15 in order to keep our Youth Ministry strong in the coming year. These special donations will help us keep our Youth Ministry staff person working at least 20 hours per week or more. We invite your help! Offering/Pledge cards are available on the coffee counter in the narthex. Council members and Pastor Jaech are happy to answer any questions you have.

Lefse to benefit our Youth!

On December 5 and 12, there will be Lefse offered for sale. A \$5.00 donation will benefit the youth programs at our church! If you'd like to purchase some, but are unable to make it to church call, 944-7505.

NEWS FROM OUR CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

On October 31, Beautiful Savior members met for our Annual Congregational Meeting. A balanced budget was adopted for 2011, copies of which are available in the church office.

In addition, a motion was passed to raise \$10,000 or more in special offerings and pledges by December 15, in order to strengthen our 2011 Youth Ministry. The adopted budget provides funding for a ten hour per week Youth Worker, which is significantly down from the thirty hours per week that Rachel Brocker currently works. The special fundraising will raise the hours worked by the new Youth Minister to at least twenty hours per week or more.

We congratulate and thank eight members who were elected to our Church Council. They are Bert Alvaro, Bob Eaton, Rafik Fouad, Rick Giles, Ron Maize, Sue Nolan, Loral Stephens-Kozacek, and Sid Wiggs. They join current Council members, Marcia DeCaro, Don Houck, Helene Pihl and Jerry Rhodes. We also thank out-going Council members Karen Cleveland and Don Fitzgerald. Don has served for the last four years as our Council President.

Fred Hagelstein and Hal Tye were elected to our Mission Endowment Fund committee, joining Jim Poppe, Les Zehr and Chuck Woods. We thank retiring member, Gary Danielson.

Don Fitzgerald and Cheryl Heiserman were elected to the 2011 Nominating Committee.

Finally, congregation members affirmed our congregational ministry theme for the coming year: "Called to Care". We will study and live out God's call to care for our neighbors within the church, in Clark County and around the world.



EDUCATION AT BSLC

Tuesday Study Group—Mercy & Manna

Shirley Vegdahl will continue to facilitate a discussion on the book, Manna and Mercy by Dan Erlander. We have copies of the book available in the church office. The group will meet on Tuesday mornings at 10 AM.

Noon Bible Study with Pastor Jaech

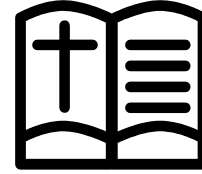
Join us on Wednesday's at 12 Noon to study the Book of James. Martin Luther felt that James didn't have enough gospel in it to be worthy of being in the Bible. However, the early Christian church saw its numerous, important gifts and voted James into the New Testament. What did James have to say to Christians in the second century when it was written? What does it have to say to us today? You are invited to join us on Wednesday's to study and explore this important book.

Wednesday Night Study

with Pastor Hoffman

Wednesday nights at 6:30 PM—A Study on the Book of James.

“Lives in Transition” – If you are experiencing a major transition in your life and would like to share with others in this journey of “life”, we invite you join us as we step out on a new opportunity to connect with others “Lives in Transition”. We will meet on Dec. 5 at 3 PM at BSLC. We welcome your thoughts, questions, and prayers. Susan Helms Peyer; Ginger Harshman; Margaret Thompson.



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!

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). **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!



New in the Library

The book of the month is a new addition to our reference collection. It is *The Letter and the Scroll: What Archaeology Tells Us About the Bible*. The book is divided into eight chapters covering major eras in biblical history as defined by country, kingdom, or faith. They are arranged chronologically, and correspond roughly to the order of events in the Bible. The editors, Robin Currie and Stephen G. Hyslop, have done exhaustive work reexamining previous discoveries and scholarship, including the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls. Yet they have managed to write a scholarly work in layman's language. This is a National Geographic publication, so also contains beautiful photography and illustrations.

WANT TO BECOME A MEDIA EXPERT AND HELP BEAUTIFUL SAVIOR?

As part of our focus on "Called to Care," we would like to engage in a year-long photo/video project to tell the story of what we as a congregation do as we care for each other, our community, and the world. We'd like to invite photographers and videographers to participate, including those who have access to cameras and would like to learn how to use them more effectively. We want to take photos and videos of all the things we as a congregation engage in, from quilting to providing lunch at the Free Clinic, to building in Mexico or singing in the cherub choir. Council member Jerry Rhodes is heading up this project. If you would like to participate, please contact Jerry or the church office at bslc@pacifier.com or 360-254-9243.

A WORD OF THANKS....

Sunday, November 7th, we dedicated two new crosses that were recently placed on the church building. The largest one faces Mill Plain on the north side, and the smaller one is to the right of the front entrance. These two crosses are a generous gift to Beautiful Savior from Doug Spencer, as are the crosses that now grace the classrooms and fellowship hall.

Last December, Doug conveyed to Pastor Jaech and the Council that he wanted to make this contribution to the church. Since then, Council has reviewed various design and placement options, the permit process and other steps along the way. Jan Voldal, Doug's life-partner, was instrumental in helping make Doug's dream a reality, and the Friends of the Carpenter beautifully crafted the crosses. Doug passed away in June, but he was very grateful that he could provide this gift to the church.

We are very thankful for Doug's generosity and vision in giving these beautiful statements of faith. They will enhance the presence of Beautiful Savior in our community, and also be a legacy to our brother in Christ.

Care Team Orientation Meeting-

Sunday Dec. 12 12:15 PM

Thank you to the all that have expressed interest in joining the Care team ministry. The Care Team will have an orientation meeting Sunday, Dec. 12 at 12:15 PM right after the second service. Please plan on attending the orientation meeting and bring a friend!

If you are interested in learning more but haven't signed up, please join us!

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF UPDATE

All it takes to touch the world and warm it up a bit is heart. A sewing machine helps, too. Donated fabrics and crochet thread tie it all together. Our small group of eight women is everyday folks. Yet our LWR Work Group members are also missionary minded, resourceful and dedicated.

Even to the quilters, it is often surprising what can be made from the scraps and fabrics with which we start. We think we send great looking school bags and quilts. "Good enough" is not our goal. We strive to send a piece of beauty and comfort to embrace the recipient with the spirit of love that created the quilt.

How we put our faith into action!



PARISH PROJECTS

We stretch our hearts and hands across the world to people in need by participating in LWR Parish Projects. Every quilt and kit that we partner with LWR to ship overseas is an expression of love and caring by this church and the group who made them.

By sharing tools for better health and education, you help bring new hope and dignity to thousands of women, children and men throughout the world. Pencils, soap, needles and thread, diapers and sweaters ...these ordinary things become extraordinary when they are assembled into the combined LWR Parish Projects and shared as gifts of love and comfort.

The kits and quilts we ship each fall and most springs, show the love of Christ to people all around the world by being a voice for the voiceless and advocating for justice in the world. For several years, Beautiful Savior has also worked to protect the dignity of others by selling and buying Fair Trade coffee and chocolate (sponsored by the Peace & Justice Ministry group). We invite you to learn more about the work we support by visiting LWR's website (<http://www.lwr.org/beinvolved/parish>) to learn more about the innovative, long-term solutions to world hunger and poverty for which Lutheran World Relief works around the world.

Several of you have stepped up to support this work by making school bags (154 this summer and fall) into which school kit items are placed for shipping. Others of you have supported the LWR work by assembling quilt blocks and rows. We have 14 quilt tops ready to be sandwiched and tied because of this support. Five more quilts are ready to be assembled from the blocks and strips you've assembled.

WHERE DID LWR QUILTS & KITS GO IN 2009?

LWR shipped 1,371 TONS WORTH \$13.5 MILLION TO 742,560 PEOPLE IN 22 DIFFERENT COUNTRIES in 2009.

TOTALS: 378,050 QUILTS -- 231,360 SCHOOL KITS -- 93,111 HEALTH KITS -- 25,875 SEWING KITS -- 68,890 LAYETTES -- 33,750 POUNDS OF SOAP

What Did BSLC LWR Work Group Do in 2010? We shipped 681.9 pounds to be distributed to people in other parts of the world. Our totals: 74 health kits; 169 school kits; 16 layettes; 9 sewing kits; 6 quilts (We did not participate in the 2010 Spring In-gathering) In addition 6 full size and 3 baby quilts were sent to Mexico with the 2010 Mission Team to give to the families for which three houses were built.

BSLC LWR Work Group Continues in 2011 We invite each of you to listen for God's call to put your faith into action. If you are looking for new ways to share your gifts, working with our LWR Work Group may fit your needs. Pray for God's guidance in selecting the projects and activities that open your heart and mind to a broader understanding of doing justice, loving mercy and walking humbly with our God. We invite each of you to join our participation in LWR Parish Projects.

Your participation can be in the form of hands-on work at church on Thursdays. You don't have to sew. If you can tie a knot, you are welcome. If you can sort donated items to be assembled into kits, you are welcome. Or you can participate by taking school bag or quilt block kits home to assemble. Purchasing items for kits is another way to participate.

Your on-going support makes our work possible.

Thank you very much!



Things to do ...

BOOK CLUB NEWS

The Book Club meets the Second Sunday of the month (December 12) at 2 PM. The December discussion will be “The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo” by Stieg Larsson and led by Susan.



PLU CHRISTMAS CONCERT - DECEMBER 4th IN PORTLAND

Pacific Lutheran University's inspirational Christmas concert will return to Portland, with a performance in the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall on Saturday, December 4 at 7:30 p.m. Under the theme Peace, the program features the Choir of the West, University Chorale and members of the University Symphony Orchestra performing hymns, carols and a choral orchestral masterwork, all in the great tradition of Lutheran choral music.. For ticket information check out www.plu.edu/christmas or call 253-535-7787 ... or you can get tickets at the door.

26th Annual Inter-Service

Walk and Knock

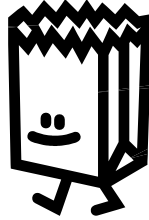
Mark your calendars – Saturday, December 4th, Beautiful Savior will send a team to help with the Clark County Walk and Knock. Please plan to participate either as a walker or driver in this year’s event. More information to come!



Opportunities to learn, share, and grow ...

Free Clinic Lunches

December 2 and 16@ 4:00PM!!



Providing food for people who are struggling is something most everyone believes in. For the past year, Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church has been engaged in just such an easy, inexpensive, hands-on project. It is called the **Free Clinic Lunch Program** and provides a sack lunch one day per month to people in our community who are in need of free medical care. Every 3rd Thursday a team gets together under the leadership of **Tim Nelson** to make and deliver nutritious sack lunches to the people waiting for medical attention at the Free Clinic of SW Washington at 4100 Plomondon St in Vancouver. The mission of the Free Clinic is to provide and facilitate access to free, compassionate, quality health care for children and adults who are otherwise unable to access such services. It is an all-volunteer clinic and is open 3 mornings and 2 evenings per week. More information about the clinic is available at <http://www.freeclinics.org/>. For the past year we have requested money and volunteer time from the congregation to make these lunches happen. Your response has been very generous and we are able now to add a second monthly lunch. **Bev Questad** has graciously volunteered to lead a second Free Clinic Lunch team on the 1st Thursday. **Jo`an Sterr** is organizing the volunteers for both teams. **If you are available at 4:00 PM for 1 hour on either the 1st or 3rd Thursday please call her at 360.892.4665.** The cost for 50 lunches is approximately \$100 and contributions can be made to this fund any time by putting your check in an envelope marked Free Clinic Lunches. Thank you for your help!!

Peace and Justice

Meets the third Monday of the month at the home of Rick and Ann Giles. Enjoy a potluck meal at 6:00 PM and then meet to discuss ways in which we can bring peace and justice to our community and world.

Brown Bag giving during the Holiday Season

There will be no brown bag distribution in December. The Beautiful Savior Giving Tree will offer you all an opportunity to give to those in the community who may not have Christmas gifts otherwise.

Thank you for your generous giving during the past year.

Your Social Ministries Committee and the people we serve

"Habitat for Humanity Recipient gives thanks".



Hello everyone. I'm sorry that I can't be here today as I am working. My name is Malou and I have a 3 year old daughter named Angelina. I had originally applied for Habitat Humanity because we didn't have a place to call home. We rented a very small bedroom that was barely big enough for me let alone a growing child. It's been a dream of mine to have a home of my own and thanks to all of the wonderful people that have volunteered their time and hard work, Angelina and I now have a place to call home. Habitat Humanity has been a dream come true and I will forever be grateful. God bless you all and thank you again.

***Sincerely,
Malou and Angelina***