



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.**



The Messenger
JANUARY 2010

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

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

**Join us for Christmas Eve
Candlelight services!**

5:00 PM

7:00 PM w/choir & bells

10:30 PM w/choir & bells Holy Communion



From Pastor Jaech

Dear Friends in Christ,

This is our January newsletter, so it should have a New Year's theme. Yet, I am writing it (and you will receive it) before December 25, so the celebration of Christmas is also very much on my mind and can't be ignored. Therefore, I have been asking myself: how can I honor and connect New Year and Christmas together?

One thought, which a Marty Haugen Advent hymn brings to mind, is that both Christmas and New Year bring a "new morning." The birth of Christ brings a new morning to all God's people. The arrival of a New Year also stirs up hope for a new morning of achievement, healing and blessing as the year begins again. This is the way Haugen puts it.

*Awake, awake and greet the new morn,
For angels herald it dawning.
Sing out your joy, for soon he is born,
Behold, the Child of our longing.
Come as a baby weak and poor,
To bring all hearts together,
He opens wide the heav'nly door
And lives now inside us forever.*

*To us, to all, in sorrow and fear,
Emmanuel comes asinging,
His humble song is quiet and near,
Yet fills the earth with its ringing;
Music to heal the broken soul
And hymns of loving-kindness,
The thunder of his anthems roll
To shatter all hatred and blindness.*

Many of us long for a new morning. We dream of a new beginning in many different areas of our lives. A new beginning for our family; a new sense of purpose for our work; new joy in our heart; new peace for the countless war-torn places in the world; new stability for the economy; new healing for countless health problems; new understanding

between people divided by religion or race. The wounds and pain of life sometimes seem so deep that we wonder whether we have any right to hope for something better. For many, the season of Christmas and New Year is doubly painful because the promised joy of this time feels dwarfed by the emptiness and suffering of daily life. We fear that a "new morning" is impossible.

*In darkest night his coming shall be,
When all the world is despairing,
As morning light so quiet and free,
So warm and gentle and caring.
Then shall the mute break forth in song,
The lame shall leap in wonder,
The weak be raised above the strong,
And weapons be broken asunder*

In the darkness of night, Jesus is born. In the frozenness of winter, God starts the wheel of time over again. Both are signs that God does not forget or abandon us. Rather, God comes again and again to bring us a new morning of life.

As this Christmas and New Year approach, each of us undoubtedly carries our own question, struggle or longing. There are times when we can barely explain to ourselves what we most want and need, let alone what our world needs. Yet God reads our heart and desires to bring us the fullest life possible. This is the gift that is promised to us in the days ahead.

*Rejoice, rejoice, take heart in the night,
Though dark the winter and cheerless,
The rising sun shall crown you with light,
Be strong and loving and fearless.
Love be our song and love our prayer
And love our endless story;
May God fill every day we share
And bring us at last into glory.*

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Rick Jaech



From Rachel (Director of Faith Formation)

Spring Dinner Club

It is time for another round of Dinner Club! If you are interested in joining, please add your name to the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board, or call Karen Isely or Rachel Brocker. Please consider attending our Spring Kick-Off Potluck. Date/times are as follows:

Date – Sunday, January 10th

Time – 12:30 p.m. (after the 11:00 service)

Location – Fellowship Hall

Details – This is a potluck, so please bring a dish to share.

At this event we will be drawing new groups, talking about our experiences with the previous round of Dinner Club, and enjoying one another's company. If you are unable to attend this event, but would like to be put in a group for the spring, please call Karen Isely or Rachel Brocker.

High School Hockey Game

The high school group will be attending a Winterhawks Hockey game, Saturday, January 9th. We will meet at Karen and Chris Isely's house for pizza at 5:00 p.m. and then head over to the arena. Please contact Rachel Brocker for more information.

Love and Logic @ Regroup

Sunday, January 3rd. 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.

Training Day!!!

Please come to the church on Saturday, January 23rd, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. for an opportunity to learn about different ways to serve at Beautiful Savior. During this time, we will have the opportunity to be trained to be Ushers, Greeters, Readers, Communion Assistants, Counters, Acolytes, Cantors, or Coffee Hour Helpers. We will also have a time of lunch and fellowship in between sessions. Please contact Rachel Brocker, the Director of Faith Formation, for more information.



EDUCATION NEWS ...

ADULT FORUMS IN JANUARY

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

- Jan. 3** Epiphany: What the three magi teach us in St. Matthew's gospel.
- Jan. 10** Bottled Water and Water Stewardship: A conversation about the best way to care for our water resources and our planet. Come and bring your thoughts. Led by Pastor Jaech and the Green Team.
- Jan. 17** What did Jesus do? The chief elements of Jesus' life and what he teaches us to do. Part I.
- Jan. 24** What did Jesus do? Part II
- Jan. 31** What did Jesus do? Part III

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! **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!

THE BOOK OF REVELATION – Come and Crack the Code with Us

Beginning on Epiphany Day, Wednesday, January 6, the 12:00 Noon Bible Study will study the Book of Revelation. It's common for someone reading the Book of Revelation to say, "I have no idea what this means!" At that point, the author of Revelation would probably say, "Good! That's exactly what I wanted!"

Revelation was written at a time when the Christian community was being persecuted by the Roman government. The author, known as St. John the Divine, or John of Patmos, wanted to write a letter of encouragement to Christians. He wanted to assure them that God's power would overcome the destructive power of the political rulers and that God would bring peace and blessings to God's people. However, any document that openly criticized the government would be dangerous to possess. Christians who were caught reading such a document would be arrested. Therefore, John wrote his letter in "code" language. He used very symbolic language to talk about current events. The Christians who received the letter knew the code, but the Roman authorities did not. Therefore, the authorities did not realize that this strange letter was a condemnation of them. The symbolic code kept the Christians safe.

Two thousand years have gone by and, once again, Christian scholars have worked to interpret the code. Now we have a better idea of how to understand this letter of encouragement and hope written in a time of crisis. Come to our Wednesday class as we work to crack the code together, with the help of some good Bible scholars. We meet from Noon to 1pm each Wednesday.



Opportunities to learn, share, and grow ...

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

CALLING ALL GARDENERS

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 are still looking for 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!

CARE FOR OUR WATER, CARE FOR THE EARTH

Two learning events in January

With rain pouring down outside, it's hard to imagine that we are facing an increasingly severe water shortage. With population growth, the spread of pollution and more frequent droughts, the availability of clean, drinkable water is shrinking to a critical level around the world.

As the Book of Genesis makes clear, God calls us to be stewards and caretakers of the planet, including its resources such as water. That presents us with challenging decisions: How do we best care for the water supply? How should it be fairly distributed? How do we balance our need for clean drinking water with its use for farming and industry?

There is an additional important question that is emerging: Is bottled water a blessing or a curse? Is it a fair way to distribute water? Are there health factors that must be considered? What about the literally billions of plastic bottles that are left behind?

Our Green Team at Beautiful Savior invites all of you who are interested in these issues to participate and share your ideas at two learning events in January. The first will take place on Sunday, January 10, at 9:45AM during the Adult Forum hour. The second event will be an evening event on Sunday, January 24, from 6:30 – 8:30PM.

As discussion starters at the January 24th evening event, we will look at portions of a recently made documentary film, Tapped, which particularly looks at the issues around bottled water. We will also consider the viewpoints of other parties, such as the Nestle Corporation, which sells bottled water. A representative from a local water-care group will be with us to help us explore current research on the water issue. Most of all it will be a time for us to share our views and seek together how we might best care for the earth as God's stewards. We invite you to come and be a part of this discussion.



OPPORTUNITES...

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. McLouglin 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

Save the Date! Faith Advocacy Day in Olympia is Feb 16, 2010. This is an opportunity for people of faith in the State of Washington to meet with their state representatives and discuss how their votes on specific issues. It is also a day of learning about state government. The primary sponsors of the event are The Washington Association of Churches, Lutheran Public Policy Office and Church Council of Greater Seattle. Beautiful Savior has had several carloads attending in the past few years. If you would be interested in this trip, please call Rick or Ann Giles.

Fair Trade Olive Oil, Couscous, Soap from Palestine a Big Hit at Beautiful Savior on November 22.

Wilbur and Lorie Wood nearly sold out of their fair trade products on November 22. They will be back on March 14, 2010. If you would like to order anything in the interim they can be reached at 360.693.6148. The following is an excerpt from the letter they sent: *"Thank you and the committee for having us a week ago to bring Palestinian products. Both Wilbur and I enjoyed being at Beautiful Savior, not only with fair trade, but also in the worship service. Please use the enclosed check (\$20) for some of the justice work that is done in your faith community. Warmly, Lorie"*

Free Clinic Lunches. Thank you to all of the people at Beautiful Savior who have helped with the third-Thursday-lunches for the Free Clinic of Vancouver. There have been many volunteers and very generous contributions! The lunches are very much appreciated by the recipients and making and delivering them is a simple and rewarding experience. If you would like to volunteer, please call the church office. If you would like to contribute financially, you may do so by putting your contribution into one of the specially marked envelopes or simply marking your check for Free Clinic Lunches. Thank you.

Rethink Afghanistan. The documentary, Rethink Afghanistan, was shown to an enthusiastic audience at Concordia University on December 8. This screening was the first of several to be shown in the Vancouver area and sponsored by the Peace and Justice Ministry of BSLC. New dates for January and February will be posted in the bulletins. Additional information is available on the internet at rethinkafghanistan.org or by calling Jo`an Sterr.



NEWS ...

PARKING LOT EXITS

Stay Safe

Please notice that the church parking lot exit closest to Mill Plain Blvd. is a right-turn-only exit. As the posted sign indicates, you should not use that exit to turn left towards Mill Plain. Cars turn in quickly from Mill Plain at that intersection. Turning left puts you and other drivers at risk. Even though it is a longer drive, you need to drive to the south end of the parking lot and exit there in order to come back to Mill Plain.

FREE BOOK SHELF

There is a good quality book shelf in the Fellowship Hall that is available to the first person who claims it! It is approximately 4' X 7' and dark wood.

A FOLLOW-UP CONVERSATION ABOUT APPLAUSE

On Sunday, January 31, following the 11AM service, members are invited to meet and discuss applause in church after a music or choir offering. This is in follow up to two discussions that we had in October and November. In November, we decided to give ourselves additional time to think about various options that would add most to our worship. On January 31, we invite you to bring your ideas.

ADDING TO OUR HANDBELLS

You have probably heard us announce on Sundays that we have a happy problem at Beautiful Savior. Our handbell choir has grown to the point where they are short on handbells! We thank Patrick and all the handbell choir members for bringing us such beautiful music. We now want to support them by buying another octave of handbells, so that there will be room for even more handbell choir members. An octave of handbells (13 bells) costs about \$5,000.

We invite you to make a special offering towards handbells, if you would like to support this music ministry. We will not be using our regular Sunday offerings to buy the handbells, since these offerings all go toward our budgeted ministry expenses. Rather, we will wait until enough special offerings have been made to pay for the new handbells. There are special donation envelopes at church that can be used for your handbell gift. Thank you for considering this!

URGENT BULLETIN ...

Multicultural Community Services of Lutheran Community Services is in desperate need of donations to aid families ...

They need:

Furniture

Baby/child related items

Household items (kitchen, bed sheets, towels).

Call for a free pick-up 503/731-9528 (Megan).



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CHURCH

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\$913 RAISED FOR FRIENDS OF THE CARPENTER

A wonderful array of wooden crosses, tree ornaments and flower vases were on sale in the narthex during the Sundays of Advent. These items were all made by Friends of the Carpenter, a Christian service organization in Vancouver that serves the homeless and destitute. Beyond making beautiful wood items, Friends of the Carpenter helps organize supportive relationships for the homeless, both at their wood shop and within local churches.

We thank all of you that purchased these wood items. A total of \$913 was raised through these sales, all of which goes to Friends of the Carpenter. A big thank you goes to Doug Spencer and Jan Voldal who set up the display and organized the sales. Doug and Jan regularly volunteer at Friends of the Carpenter, as do other members of Beautiful Savior. They would enjoy giving you more information about this ministry.