



THE MESSENGER

Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church

www.beautifulsaviorlutheran.com

WORSHIP TIMES:

8:30 and 11 AM

Sunday School & Adult Forum at 9:45 AM



The Messenger

March 2011

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

Save the date – Get Involved!

March 17, 2011 is Faith Advocacy Day in Olympia, WA. It is organized by the Washington Association of Churches, which includes many denominational and ecumenical organizations in our state, including the Washington synods of the ELCA and Lutheran Public Policy Office of Washington. It is a day to go in mass to Olympia and speak to our legislators about our faith-based opinions. Group worship, workshops on current legislation, and the opportunity to speak personally to your individual representatives are the events of the day.

Registration is \$20 and includes breakfast and lunch. Register at <http://thewac.org/2010/11/22/religious-coalition-for-tax-reform-seattle-meeting/>

Because of the diminishing tax revenues and continuing budget cuts, it will be very important for the moral voice of the faith community to be heard during this session of the legislature.

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

We will car pool from Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church at approximately 6:30 AM and return by 6:00 PM. To sign up for car pooling or get more information contact Rick Giles





From Pastor Jaech

Dear Friends in Christ,

I have said it to myself, and I have heard it said from many other people lately, “Lent and Easter are so late this year! What’s going on?!”

Often Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent, arrives by mid-February. This year Ash Wednesday doesn’t come until March 9. Three years ago we celebrated Easter on March 23. This year Easter will be on April 24. Why is it so early some years and so late this year?

Most Christian festival days are fixed on specific dates, so we know exactly when they are going to happen each year. Christmas is on December 25. Reformation Day is on October 31. There’s no guessing and no surprises (at least about the date.) Easter, however, changes from year to year. This is because the Christian church, from its earliest years, decided to set the date of Easter according to a lunar calendar, which measures time by the movement of the moon rather than the sun.

When the four Gospels tell us the story of Good Friday and Easter, they describe how Easter happened right after the Jewish festival of Passover. The Christian church decided to continue the calendar relationship between Passover and Easter. However, the traditional Jewish calendar is a lunar calendar and, therefore, the dates of Passover and Easter vary each year according to the phases of the moon.

The rule for setting the date of Easter is this: Easter is the first Sunday after the first full moon after the vernal equinox (the first day of Spring.) The vernal equinox, according to astronomers, actually slides between March 20 and March 22. However, in the traditional Christian church calendar, March 21 was picked

as the yearly date of the vernal equinox. Therefore, Easter is always the first Sunday after the first full moon after March 21.

That means that March 22 is the absolute earliest possible date for Easter in any year. The latest possible date is April 25. So our date of Easter this year, April 24, is the second to the last possible date. Easter hasn’t fallen on April 24 since 1859. It won’t fall on this date again until 2095. However, it will fall on the very latest date possible, April 25, in 2038.

Those are all calendar-keeping facts that I find interesting, but are there any spiritual truths that might come to us out of this? As I find myself meditating on our late-blooming, off-in-the-distance Easter this year, here are a few thoughts that come to mind.

God’s gift of Easter (new life!) sometimes comes suddenly and sometimes must develop slowly in hidden corners of our lives.

Being forced to wait for a crucial event can help us to receive and open ourselves to it all the more.

The full, springtime bloom that will be around us by April 24, will also be a sign of the life that God will help to “flower” in us through Easter.

No matter where it is on the calendar, it will still surprise and disrupt our normal schedule!

Easter is God’s lunar gift to us lunatic people!

Thank goodness that, whether early or late, Easter’s resurrection power can never be stopped.

We are racing ahead of ourselves, of course. We still have the deepening, healing journey of Lent and Holy Week to complete.

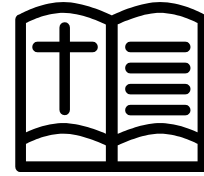
Yet we are given strength for that journey by trusting that we are headed toward the Easter moment that turns our lives and our world upside down.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Rick Jaech



Education at Beautiful Savior ...



Sunday School and Adult Forum—

Adult Forum meets every Sunday at 9:45am in the Church Fellowship Hall next door to the Coffee Hour area.

During March, our Adult Forum discussions will focus on the theme of this year's Lenten study theme, which is ***Cultivating Community: Growing as the Body of Christ***. Each Sunday, we will explore a different way in which we grow together collectively and individually as followers of the Way of Jesus.

- Mar. 6 An Overview: Why do we need to take time out from all our tasks in order to be fed and strengthened as a church community?
- Mar. 13 Self-Care as part of discipleship.
- Mar. 20 Worship and how it feeds us.
- Mar. 27 Caring for one another.

Tuesday Study Group—Mercy & Manna

Shirley Vegdahl will continue to facilitate a discussion on the book, *Manna and Mercy* by Dan Erland-er. 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 Song of Solomon.

Wednesday Night Study

with Pastor Hoffman

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

WEDNESDAY AT CHURCH

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!

Dinner March 2—Sweet Tomatoes

Join us for Ash Wednesday, March 9!

Soup and Bread at 5:30 PM and Ash Wednesday Service at 7:00 PM

We will enjoy a Soup and Bread meal at 5:30 PM each Wednesday in Lent! Please see the related article by Pastor Jaech to learn more about our program for Lent.

Wednesday at Church will resume the first Wednesday after Easter, April 27th.



LENT—Saturday Retreat and Discussion Groups ...

LENT:

SATURDAY RETREAT and WEDNESDAY DISCUSSION GROUPS

Here at Beautiful Savior, we are blessed to be part of a supportive, caring community engaged in the work of Jesus in the world. During Lent, we will take some time to reflect on how we come together to form this family of active individuals and how we support one another in our life together. Our theme for this Lent is: ***Cultivating Community: Growing as the Body of Christ.***

The season of Lent begins on **Ash Wednesday**, March 9. That evening we will have our Soup and Bread dinner from 5:30PM to 6:45pm and then the Ash Wednesday service at 7PM

The following Saturday, March 12, we will have our **Saturday Retreat**, which will take place from 9:00AM to 2:30PM and include lunch. At our Retreat, we will hear presentations and discuss five different ways in which the Holy Spirit helps us to grow individually and as a community: Self-Care, Worship, Caring for Each Other, Communication, and Following Our Call. It is through each of these means that we are helped to grow as the Body of Christ.

On **Wednesday evenings** in Lent, beginning on March 16 (the week after Ash Wednesday), we will have discussion groups to further explore and discuss these five topics. The schedule on Wednesdays in Lent is

- 5:30PM Soup and Bread Dinner
- 6:15PM Discussion Group
- 7:00PM Lenten Vespers

Sunday Adult Forums during Lent will also focus on the theme of Cultivating Community. This is a third way in which you can dedicate this season of Lent as a time of spiritual growth. Please sign up on the bulletin board at church. We look forward to your being with us!





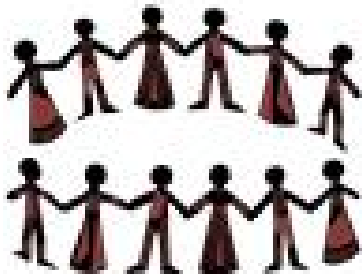
Cultivating Community: Growing as the Body of Christ

How very good and pleasant it is when kindred to live together in unity!

-Psalm 133:1

Here at Beautiful Savior, we are blessed to be part of a supportive, caring community engaged in the work of Jesus in the world. During Lent, we will take some time to reflect on how we come together to form this family of active individuals and how we support one another in our life together. Highlighting such things as our worship life, how we communicate with one another, and how we help one another in times of need, we will look to the example of Jesus to show us how to continue to grow and act as part of the body of Christ.

Following the same framework as our Lenten program last year, we will have an initial gathering to kick-off the program, followed by sermons, discussion groups, and adult education offerings that follow a weekly theme. Stay tuned for more information as we get closer to Lent!



ADVANCE INVITATION: VIGIL OF EASTER

This year, in Holy Week, Beautiful Savior will offer a worship opportunity for the whole family that many people may never have experienced. It's called the Vigil of Easter and will happen on Saturday evening before Resurrection Day. This is not a "vigil" in the sense of "praying all night" or "taking shifts to pray all night", although it does include some prayer. Rather, this is an ancient service held in candlelight, which originally did last all night as those early Christians "waited" for the Easter Day to dawn. They used the idea of staying awake at the Vigil as a symbol of the Christian lifestyle of waiting for the arrival of God. The Vigil was a gathering of the whole community of faith, with a review of the mighty acts of God as the new converts, after three years of study, were about to be baptized with the morning light. The Three Days (Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Saturday Vigil) were considered the most deeply important services of the entire year. In them, Christians experience together the history of God's salvation, culminating in the glorious event of Jesus' resurrection on Easter.

This Vigil of Easter – in a shortened form – has been revived. It begins with the striking of the fire and lighting of candles for everyone, reminding us of ancient peoples gathered around their community fire to re-tell their most important stories. We will gather, in candlelight, around the baptismal font for story-telling – mostly the great Old Testament stories of God's saving acts. It will also include a time of remembering our baptisms.

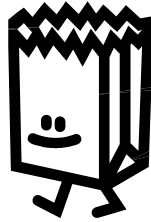
This is an early heads-up for you, inviting you to consider being part of this new-old experience this year. It is a kid friendly, relaxed kind of worship service in the semi-darkness of candlelight, helping us slow down and contemplate as we anticipate the celebration of Jesus' resurrection. Put Saturday, April 23, Easter Eve, at 7:30, on your calendar and plan to experience the Vigil of Easter. It's unique.



Opportunities to learn, share, and grow ...

Free Clinic Lunches

March 3 and 17 @ 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. 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.** 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!!

LWR Work Group - Join them every Thursday, 1 – 3 PM. There are baskets in the narthex containing an opportunity for you to sew a quilt block at home and return it to the church. Each “quilt kit” contains directions.

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.

In the Library

How about something new for the younger set? Most of us have heard of the story of Greg Mortenson and how he was rescued and nursed back to health by villagers after a failed climb of K2. He detailed this in the best seller *Three Cups of Tea*. He has now published a childrens’ version of his exploits, *Listen to the Wind: the Story of Dr. Greg & Three Cups of Tea*. In it, he tells the story of the first school he helped build in the village of Korphe, Pakistan, in gratitude for the care he received. Mortenson has now helped to build fifty-seven more schools in Pakistan and Afghanistan, and Julia Bergman has helped fill them with books. What a wonderful opportunity for children to learn that one person really can make a difference! And do enjoy the beautiful collages Susan L Roth used to illustrate this book.

To check out a book from our BSLC Library, simply date and include your name and the title you are taking on the sign-out sheets, line through that information when you return the book to the shelves.

Dinner Club!

If you are interested in participating in the next round of dinner club, please come to a short meeting Sunday, March 13th after the second service. At this event we will be drawing new groups and talking about our experiences with the last round.

BOOK TALK IN MARCH

Take this bread by Sara Miles—March 13, 2 pm. All are welcome to our fellowship hall to discuss this book!



Lives in Transition

March 6th @ 1 PM.

If you are experiencing a major transition in your life and would like to share and support others in this journey of “life”, we invite you to join us in discussion. We welcome your ideas, thoughts, questions, and prayers.

Upcoming Art Sale and Fundraiser for the Winter Hospitality Overflow!

On March 11th at Beautiful Savoir Lutheran Church, over 25 original works by Heidi Hansen (member of BSLC) will be on sale as a fundraiser for the WHO! Each piece has an original story behind it and are part of Heidi’s wish to give back to the Clark County Community. You can see some of Heidi’s amazing work at her website: mentalwellnesschannel.com. All the proceeds from this event will go to the WHO (minus the cost of materials for each painting, approx. \$25.00).

This is a great opportunity to support a local artist, the Winter Hospitality Overflow program and your community! The Winter Hospitality Overflow relies heavily on funds raised by and from members of our community. Please post this information in your church bulletins, newsletters or other locations to help spread the word!

Thank you all so much for your support and I hope to see you there!

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY ...

Prayer Shawls are available to any of you who would like to take one for others at BSLC or to someone else who you feel would be comforted by having one. These shawls are hand-knitted or crocheted by several wonderful church members. The shawls are stored in plastic containers located in the church hallway, next to the coat racks. In a manila envelope you’ll find a beautiful typed prayer to take along and a sign out sheet. Please use the sign out sheet so we don’t give duplicate shawls. If you have questions or would enjoy knitting/crocheting a shawl, please contact Dee Woodward or Sandi Holland. It’s a wonderful, comforting, loving thing to do for someone who is hurting.

Here’s a testimonial of how a Prayer Shawl can impact someone’s life ... From Dee Woodward

“Our friend John had been battling cancer for several months. When he went into Hospice Care, I asked Pastor Jaech how Hank and I might best minister to his and his wife’s needs. One of the things suggested was to offer them a prayer shawl. John had never heard of such a thing, and was impressed that we offered that as part of our ministry. His reply was, “Why wouldn’t I want one?” So I carefully selected a shawl that had his UO colors and took it to him. He frequently used it, as his temp ran hot and then cold. A couple of days before his death, he had a day of remarkable clarity. He asked me to thank our Care Team and the folks who lovingly craft prayer shawls, he was so touched by that gift of comfort. And he was wrapped in its warmth as he passed on. Such a small thing, with so much meaning to recipients.”



Things to do ...

LADIES—Movie Night!!

Ladies, join us for movie night at the Brossia household on March 25 at 6 pm. We'll be watching *27 Dresses*. This is an opportunity to get together for fun and laughter and get to know other women in the church. Plan to bring a snack or dessert to share. Please RSVP your interest to Alisa. We probably need to limit this event to the first 12 people to sign up. Hope to see you there!

Thinking about family time this summer?

Many families begin thinking about their summer plans early in the year. Create some very special memories by attending Camp Lutherwood Family & Friends camp. Family & Friends camp offers opportunities for adult discussion time, activities for kids, family time, and relaxing free time.

Camp Lutherwood Family & Friends Camp 2011 dates are:

Session #1: July 1-3

Session #2: July 22-24

Go to www.lutherwood.org for more information

Another important date is BSLC 2011 VBS:

June 27-July 1!

Two BSLC families attended last summer and had a great time. Here are things we liked about Family & Friends camp!

Being in nature

Really good food

Wonderful staff

The climbing wall

Time to talk as parents and as a family about living our faith back home

A slower pace – no electronics!

Our kids became familiar with camp while together as a family. It built confidence and sparked interest to attend Mini-Camp (two nights away designed especially for kids ages 1-3 grade)

Please let Pastor Jaech or Charlene Welch know if you are considering attending camp. It may be possible to coordinate BSLC families attending together.



Opportunities to learn, share, and grow ...

More Lutheran World Relief News:

“The times, they are a changin’” After many years without significant changes to Lutheran World Relief kits, many changes are taking place to better serve the needs of kit recipients.

School Kit Changes: No more tote bags after spring 2011, no loose notebook paper, and no more construction paper. A simple backpack is being substituted since it is more practical and eliminates the stigma of males carrying tote bags in some parts of the world. **NO regular backpacks** will be accepted. A new pattern for the backpacks is available with Kits and instructions coming soon!

Health Kit Changes: Now to be called **Personal Care Kits**. A lighter weight full-size towel (~52" X 27") is replacing the hand towel. No more Band-aids will be included.

Layette Changes: Now to be called **Baby Care Kits**. Wash cloth is being replaced by a hand towel. Sleepers cannot have feet. Gowns with open bottoms work well. Flat fold (not fitted diapers) are preferred. Two pairs of baby socks are now included. Hats//caps are now to be included. All items may be new or gently used – no holes or stains.

Sewing Kits: Now to be called **Fabric Kits**. Hand sewing needles and buttons are being eliminated. Additional thread and more fabric is now required.

More information can be provided for those who would like to continue to support our project. Shopping lists will be in Sunday bulletins soon.

MARCH 27 - Fair Trade Products ...

Caanan Fair Trade olive oil from Palestine will be available after both services. **Ye Olde Fair Trader, Lorie Woods**, will be at Beautiful Savior with Rumi and Nepali **olive oil, olive oil soap, za'atar** and other products. Take advantage of this convenience while helping Palestinian farmers survive in these difficult times, as the products are purchased directly from the farmers.

MEXICO MISSION 2011

Our building team of church members and friends has started to come together for our Mexico Mission 2011. There's still room for you! We will go to Tijuana this year from **Saturday, July 2 to Friday, July 8**. During that time we will build houses for families in need. We do this in cooperation with the Lutheran Church of El Divino Salvador in Tijuana, where we also lodge during that week and get to know the congregation. People of all ages are welcome to be a part of our building team, from age 15 on up. (Kids 13 and up can go with parents.) It is a great time of learning, service and fun.

Our **Mexico Dinner and Silent Auction** will take place this year on Saturday evening, April 30. That's a little ways off, but you can save the date. You can also help us greatly by donating items (new or in very good condition) that can be sold at our auction. Or, you can donate a cruise on your boat, a dinner out, or a stay at a cabin. All the funds go entirely to the Mexico Mission expenses.

Our **next planning meeting** will be on Wednesday, March 23, at 5:00pm (just prior to our Lent Soup and Bread Dinner that starts at 5:30pm)

If you are intrigued about the idea of joining us in Mexico, but would like more information, come to our meeting or talk to Pastor Jaech any time.