



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!)*

SUMMER WORSHIP:

8:30 and 10:30 AM

FALL WORSHIP

8:30 and 11 (Sept. 19)



The Messenger
SEPTEMBER 2010

RALLY DAY— Potluck BBQ—9/19

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

Join us on September 19 for the kick-off of our Sunday School and Adult Forum! We will meet in the sanctuary at 9:45 so the children and meet their teachers and find their classrooms. After the 11 AM service, we will enjoy a potluck BBQ. We'll supply the hamburgers, hot dogs and veggie patties and you bring your favorite side-dish to share!



From Pastor Jaech

Dear Friends in Christ,

Last Spring, beginning in Lent, we focused as a congregation on the theme, "Following the Way of Jesus." As you remember, the four elements of the Way of Jesus are (1) centered in God, (2) eyes opened by God's teaching, (3) personal re-birth, (4) transforming the world.

This Fall, we will study and follow that Way a step further. We will focus on the fourth element: Jesus both calls and empowers us to transform the world. As the Holy Spirit works through us, the love, power and blessing of God changes the world in many ways. This Fall, we will explore how this happens and how each of us can more fully participate in the transforming Way of Jesus. The theme we will use to help us focus on this is:

CARING FOR OUR NEIGHBOR... in our CHURCH, NEIGHBORHOOD, and around the WORLD.

In his teaching dialogs with his followers, Jesus emphasized again the two central commandments found in the Book of Deuteronomy: "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all of your heart and soul and mind. And, you shall love your neighbor as your self." Jesus went on to teach them that love must be expressed not only in caring words, but also in concrete, caring deeds. Finally, Jesus revealed to the disciples that "neighbor" includes people both near and far. In fact, it includes everybody.

How can we follow this Way of Jesus each day? How can we best care for our neighbor? That's what we will explore together this Fall, both in our worship services and educational classes. We will do this with two goals in mind. Our first goal is that each one of us will grow in our ability to live out the caring love of Christ in our daily life. The second goal is to strengthen the ministries of care for

neighbor that we are doing together at Beautiful Savior.

I am very happy that Beautiful Savior is caring for its neighbors at all three levels. Here are a just few examples of what we are already doing.

In order to care for our neighbors inside the church (those with whom we worship), we have a Care Team which supports members in times of illness and special need. We also have a Prayer Team, Sunday greeters and a Fellowship Team that organizes events like our BBQ picnics and Dinner Club. For our neighbors in the surrounding neighborhood of Clark County, we provide lunches at the Free Clinic, build homes through Habitat for Humanity and give financial aid to numerous community assistance programs through our Social Ministry Fund. For our neighbors around the world, we send quilts, school kits and health kits through Lutheran World Relief, advocate for hungry people through Bread for the World, and build homes in Mexico.

As I said, these are just a few examples of what we are doing as a congregation. There are many other ministries we do in each area. We will look at those ministries this Fall, both to affirm them, but also to strengthen and expand them.

Christ calls us to care for our neighbor...the one sitting next to us at church, the one who lives some blocks away and the one who lives across the globe. How will you do that in your daily life? How will we do that together as a congregation? How can we strengthen our church's entire ministry as we unite in this exciting task? The voice of Jesus is calling. In the months ahead, we will ask the Holy Spirit to help us say "Yes!" to that call.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Rick Jaech



COME STUDY THE BOOK THAT MARTIN LUTHER DIDN'T THINK SHOULD BE IN THE BIBLE

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.

Coming This Fall – "Called to Care"

How are we, as followers of the "Way of Jesus", called to care for our church, our community, and our world? This fall, we will explore the implications of this call both in our personal and corporate lives. Stay tuned for more information!

Study Group resumes September 14.

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.

WEDNESDAY AT CHURCH

Begins on September 22!

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!

LUTHERAN FAITH AND HISTORY CLASS

On the first two Wednesday's in September, Pastor Jaech will continue his class on the basic faith teachings and history of the Lutheran Church. The class will meet on September 1 and 8, from 7:00pm – 8:30pm. If you are new to the Lutheran Church or if you would like a good refresher course, you are invited to join us for study and conversation.



THE COMPLEXITIES OF AFGHANISTAN: An Invitation to Discussion

There are many complex and troubling issues in the world today and the conflict in Afghanistan is certainly one of them. The United States entered into Afghanistan in 2001 with a double purpose: first, to eliminate the terrorist threat of Osama bin Laden and, secondly, to end the repressive rule of the Taliban. Ten years later, many questions swirl around in our minds and in our public discussion. How well are these goals being achieved? What should the people of Afghanistan do? What should the United States do?

At its July meeting, the Church Council approved a proposal by Pastor Jaech that Beautiful Savior host four discussion events about Afghanistan, to which both members of the congregation and the public are invited. Recognizing that there are many different opinions about Afghanistan, these discussion events will be a chance for people to share ideas and learn from one another. Each event will begin with a discussion starter and then will offer a period of open conversation among all those interested in this topic.

The first event will take place on Saturday, October 2, and will feature as its discussion starter an Afghan meal and the performance of the play, *Afghan Women*, by the Beautiful Savior Drama Team. *Afghan Women* is a play written in 2003 that looks at the turmoil in Afghanistan particularly from the viewpoint of women and orphans. The BSLC Drama Team was one of the first groups in the Pacific Northwest to perform this play. Their first performance was in 2004 at Beautiful Savior and they have presented this drama at Washington State University-Vancouver, Concordia University, and a number of local churches since that time. As the different characters in the play wrestle with the com-

plex issues in Afghanistan, those of us who view the play will be moved to consider those issues again, from various perspectives.

A suggested donation of \$20 is asked of those attending the play. This covers the cost of the meal, with all profits beyond those costs going to the Orphan Care project in Afghanistan. Orphan Care supports Afghan families who agree to become a foster family for an orphan. Orphan Care pays for education and medical care for the orphan and the family that cares for them. It has had great success in moving children from an orphanage into a more stable home environment, and it benefits entire families. If you are not able to make this donation, you are still very welcome to attend the event.

The schedule on October 2 is:

12 Noon	Afghan meal
1:30PM	<i>Afghan Women</i> play
3:30PM	Discussion

The second event will be on Tuesday, October 19, when we will have an Open Forum from 7:00PM to 8:30PM. As the discussion starter, four guests, including people from Afghanistan, will each speak for four minutes, offering various viewpoints about the best course to take. Then, Pastor Jaech will facilitate an open discussion among everyone present who wishes to speak. The goal of the evening is not to promote or “sell” one viewpoint, but rather to let everyone speak, react and learn from one another.

More information about these events, and two more in November, will be provided as the dates get closer.



BOOK CLUB NEWS

We will resume our book discussions on Sunday, September 12th at 3 PM. to discuss *People of the Book* by Geraldine Brooks.

In the Library

The newest addition to our BSLC library is a donated copy of Walter Wangerin's latest book *Letters From the Land of Cancer*. We ELCA Lutherans have enjoyed his monthly columns in *The Lutheran* for years. As he has battled cancer, his columns are no longer monthly, but he has not lost his ability to communicate his thoughts. In this book, he relates his feelings, perceptions, etc., as he takes this journey with an illness that has touched us all in one way or another. Be prepared to laugh, cry, and feel Wangerin's experiences as you read this emotional book.

INTERFAITH WEED PULL AND POTLUCK DINNER AT LACAMAS LAKE PARK

Have you ever been to an Interfaith Weed Pull before? What is an Interfaith Weed Pull anyway? On Sunday, September 26, members of the churches, synagogues and mosques of Vancouver will join together in a public service project. We will help beautify Lacamas Lake Park under the direction of the County Park Department. From 3pm – 5pm we will do basic gardening and upkeep. Then, at 5pm we will join together in a potluck dinner at the park. During this time we will have the chance to meet new friends and become acquainted with people of other faith traditions. If you are able to participate in this service project, there is a sign up sheet on the wall in the narthex where you can sign your name.

OUR COFFEE HOUR TAKES PLACE IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL

Join us after church on Sundays for coffee, treats and conversation. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall where there is more room to sit and chat.



Opportunities to learn, share, and grow ...

BROWN BAG COLLECTIONS

The bags of school supplies have been piled high. Thanks to you who shopped early they will be delivered before school starts.

For future planning brown bag collections are as follows:

September : Protein items, especially canned chicken, tuna, and peanut butter

October : HUGS, that is Hats, Underwear, Gloves, Socks

November : Canned food for Walk and Knock in December

December : Giving tree items for Share and Fort Vancouver Convalescent Center

Free Clinic Lunches

September 2 and September 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 starting in September. **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!!

Peace and Justice

"We all want peace and justice" is the theme for the **2010 Vancouver Peace and Justice Fair Saturday, September 11th at Esther Short Park in Vancouver, Washington.** Beautiful Savior joins over 50 other churches, organizations and businesses promoting peace, environmental issues and social justice.

From 9-5:00 there will be entertainment, children's activities, community networking, and education. It all begins with a drum circle in the morning and is featuring The Tom Grant Band in the afternoon.

The Vancouver Peace and Justice Fair is a full-day celebration surrounding the work of peace, environmental and social justice organizations in the greater Clark County area. The fair's focus is to build community among these groups in their common effort to promote peace and justice at home, in the community, and in the world. Next to the playground there will be children's activities including face painting, art and creative expression. Burgerville, a sponsor and supporter, will also be onsite.

Entry to the Fair is **free**. For more information simply go to VancouverPeaceandJusticeFair.org.

Saturday, September 11th, at Esther Short Park in Vancouver, Washington from 9-5:00.

OPPORTUNITES ...

Qi Gong classes

have returned to Beautiful Savior

In 2000 and 2001 Julie Porter, a Qi (chi) Gong instructor, was a familiar face at Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church. The Columbian ran a feature story about it. Quite a number of members learned a healing routine called Soaring Crane Qi Gong. It is a simple practice of movement meditation that takes qi, or life-giving force, from the universe and concentrates it inside the body for healing. After the classes were discontinued Qi Gong students met for several years in homes and in the church. Eventually that dwindled away.

In 2007 when Jo`an Sterr was in need of intense healing, the Qi Gong practice was once again resurrected and with the help of Barbara Bennett, Jo`an did Qi Gong weekly. Personal support, prayer, medicine and Qi Gong were all used simultaneously and the result was an unexpected 3 years of remission. It is time to return to Qi Gong classes. Seven members just completed an 8-week class in June and July.

A new class will start September 15 and go through November 3. It will run from 2:45-4:15 on Wednesdays. The cost is \$120 for the 8 weeks. If you could use healing now or are interested in learning this ancient Chinese method of helping the body heal itself for the future, call Jo`an Sterr or the church office at 360.254.9243.

Qi Gong Class:

Wednesday Sept. 15 – Nov 3

2:45-4:15

\$120

Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church.

EPIC!!

East Park Community Church is in the midst of building a new wing on their church to house EPIC (East Park Impact Center). EPIC is a 5th – 8th grade after school program to give latch key middle school kids a safe place to hang out when they get out of school. They will offer tutoring/homework help, positive mentoring, activities and fun times (free of charge). This program is being supported by the Evergreen School District, but needs financial assistance. East Park will hold a Walk-a-Thon and Silent Auction on September 11, from 10 – 1 PM. The address is 15815 NE 18th Street (across from Pizzacato). Pledge forms and more information are available at www.totallyepic.org.

October 23, 2010 Habitat for Humanity

Another volunteer opportunity is coming your way. Eight volunteers from BSLC gave their time to help build a home in our community on July 31st. Some asked if they could do it again, so this year we are lucky to do a repeat. If you were not able to participate in July, here is your chance to get your tools out. There will be a sign-up sheet on the church bulletin board or you can write Kathy Esparza. If this is something that you want to be a part of, I encourage you to sign-up. No worries, no experience or construction tools are necessary, just your generous time. Look for more details to follow on specific construction that will be happening on that day in the Sunday bulletin.