



**claimed
gathered
and sent**
for the sake of the world

The Crossroads

Newsletter

January, 2009

Dear Family of Faith,

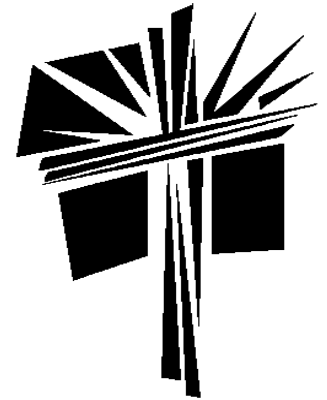
The stories of Jesus' birth reside in our souls like nuggets of gold that we bring out once a year to admire, adore, celebrate, and then put away. The stories from Matthew and Luke along with the poetry of John bring us warmth and joy at Christmas.

The Gospel of Mark doesn't have a nativity. It merely opens with the words, "The beginning of the good new of Jesus Christ..." I think this year I'll drink in this evangelist a little more because for Mark the story never ends. It is never stored away like tree ornaments to be retrieved from the basement in eleven months.

I guess we will need a reminder that "God is with us" describes our life in Christ 24 hours a day and seven days a week. Christ never goes away. Christmas may end on the radio and in department stores, but the meaning of the Nativity never fades.

Looking to meet the year ahead, God is with us. Hoping to get through tough times, God is with us. Facing joys and frustrations, love and fear, easy decisions and hard ones, God is with us.

May the Lord be with you,
Pastor B.



Keep up with Pastor B's ramblings and ruminations by connecting to his Monday Blog on our Web site:
www.oslc-elca.org



**Sunday
February 8
11:45 a.m.**

Worship Themes

The season of Epiphany in the church has always been kind of a get-to-know-you time in rediscovering the identity of Jesus. Just like friends and family, we may think we know all there is to know and then find out something new or something has changed. Spend the early part of the new year getting to know the one who gives you life eternal, Jesus the Christ.



Jan. 4 - The Second Sunday of Christmas - Happy New Year everyone! Before we get back to a full work week, let's talk a little about what it means for OSLC to testify to the light of God in a sermon called *Sparks to Fire*.

Jan. 11 - The Baptism of Our Lord - The words from heaven said, "You are my Son" when Jesus arose from the waters of the Jordan River. We need to hear those words applied to all who are washed clean by water and word. Then we will know what *Family of Faith* is all about.

Jan. 18 - The Confession of St. Peter - Here's a lesson that gets right to the heart of the Epiphany question, *Who Do You Say that I Am?* How will you answer it?

Jan. 25 - The Conversion of St. Peter - Pr. Byron Bunge will preach this weekend as we recognize our relationship with Oakwood Lutheran Homes.

Congregation votes to call Julie Krahn

At a special meeting of the congregation on December 14, Julie Krahn was called to be a pastor here at Our Savior's. If accepted, the two-year term call will begin in early January. Installation is set for February 1.

Please pray for God to guide us through the process of discernment. Should she accept the call, let us pray for a smooth transition into the team ministry we share here at Our Savior's.



Annual meeting and nominations

The annual meeting of the congregation is set for Feb. 8 following the second service. The meeting will receive reports, adopt a budget, and elect leaders.

The following boards have chairperson vacancies for which there is no incumbent. If you are interested in knowing more, please call Pastor B.

Board of Church in Society - oversees the many outreach ministries of the congregation.

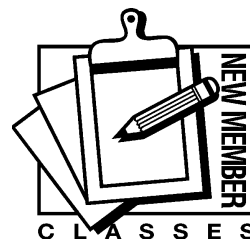
Board of Public Relations - seeks to develop and encourage ways to make our church and ministry known.

Board of Youth - works to develop and sustain ministries for youth and families within the congregation.

We also need a nomination for congregation secretary. The position records the actions of the council and congregation meetings. It also attests to actions of the council and congregation when necessary.

New Member Classes begin Jan. 18

We would like to invite anyone interested in joining or simply knowing more about Our Savior's to attend a series of classes beginning Jan. 18. The classes continue on Jan. 25, Feb. 8, and Feb. 15. New members will be received on Feb. 22. The classes are at 6:00pm and childcare is provided.



If you or someone you know is interested, please contact the church office or sign up on the new member sheet on the Ministry Opportunity Table.

Annual reports due

A reminder to all board chairs that your annual report is due to the church office by January 7. Reports can be Emailed to brandy@oslc-elca.org.

Rediscovering the Book of Faith

A three week adult study will begin in January called "Rediscovering the Book of Faith". This study offers an overview of how the Bible came to be and why certain books and letters were chosen to be in the Bible. The study will be offered on Sunday mornings from 9:30 to 10:15 as well as Monday evenings from 7 to 8 p.m. The Sunday morning class will begin on Sunday, January 11 and the Monday evening class on Monday, January 12. Childcare will be available for both classes. Also available is an at home study titled "Read the Bible in a Year" and will offer helps through Our Savior's web page and Email. If you are interested in this study, please sign up and include your Email address so that your questions can be answered individually as well as online.

Sunday school begins Jan. 11

After a couple of weeks off over the Christmas and New Year season, Sunday school will resume on Sunday, January 11. The O.S. Faith Odyssey (kindergarten through 6th grade) will set sail on a journey to various places where the children will learn various names of Jesus as they relearn the Christmas story. One of the rotations will be discussing family trees and children will be sent a letter with a Family tree form which needs to be completed and brought to Sunday school on January 11. If you did not receive this form, please check Our Savior's web site (www.oslc-elca.org - Education page) and download the form.



Sunday school help needed

The Board of Education is asking for the following help with our Sunday school:

- * Pre-school teachers and assistants teachers
- * Rotation workshop leaders for the next two rotations - Jesus calls His Disciples (6 weeks) and Teach Me to Pray (5 weeks)
- * Opening leader for Rotation Sunday school for both 9:15 and 10:30 sessions
- * Materials Gatherer to purchase necessary supplies throughout the year.

Contact Muriel Arms if you have questions or are interested in any of these offerings.

Worship in a different musical style

Worship at 10:30 on Sunday, January 25 will be led by guitars, drums, pianos and voices. The setting of the liturgy will include music by Jay Beech, Robin Cain, Dennis Friesen-Carper, Phil Kadidlo, and Larry Olson (Dakota Road). Additional music for the Epiphany season by contemporary composers will be included. Mark your calendars and plan to join us in worship on this day and time.

Volunteers Needed

We are looking for people who are willing to pick up those who would like to attend worship but are not able to drive. We are looking for volunteers at all services, please sign up on the Ministry Opportunity Table if you are willing. If your service is needed we will connect you with the person you will be picking up.



Grocery receipts

As of November 30, \$376 has been received from Pick 'N Save and \$900 from Sentry Foods. This money supports the Food Pantry and the Board of Church in Society. Don't forget that you can sign up for these programs by asking for a sticker on your Sentry receipt and then bring the receipt to the church office or sign up at the customer service counter at Pick 'N Save (our number is 58520 or they will look it up for you). Thank you for your support. Call the church office if you have any questions.



News

The book club will not be gathering for a book discussion in January. However, they are meeting Tuesday, January 6 at 6:30pm in Mission Matinee at Our Savior's to watch Mama Mia. Bring a snack to share.

The book club will discuss Kris Radishes *Annie Freeman's Fabulous Traveling Funeral* on Tuesday, February 3.

Library Reviews

Do you have a boring commute, or is reading in small print getting difficult for you? Do your kids like to listen to stories? The library has three new audio CDs that you might want to check out!

The Gospels Come to Life narrated by Christian music artist, Michael W. Smith, is a very pleasant listening experience. Soft piano music plays in the background as Smith reads thru the gospels. His voice is strong and clear, and the music doesn't interfere with the words. The only thing that could be improved is that the gospel and/or chapter being read is not announced at the beginning.

Psalms and Proverbs - the Message Remix is taken from the Messenger Bible, this is a five CD series and is read by various Christian music artists. Each Psalm and Proverb is mentioned by the artist before they begin reading. This series offers no musical accompaniment, but is still pleasant to listen to.

For the kids; Adventures in Odyssey - Double Play, this CD offers two character building sports stories. Join Mr. Whitacker and the kids from Odyssey as they learn how to be good sports and overcome disappointment. A fun listening experience for both kids and adults.

Undecorating

Lend a hand with taking down the Advent and Christmas decorations on Sunday, January 4 at 11:30 a.m. following the 10:30 worship service. Many hands will be needed to assist with this task. Please consider helping out.

Official Acts

Baptisms - celebrating new life through the sacrament of belonging

December 14 - Brody James Utphall son of Geoffrey Utphall and Brooke Ashline

Food Pantry Concert

We do not have a total raised from the Sun Prairie Food Pantry yet. Thanks to all for the generous contributions. The choirs were fantastic and Our Savior's hosted a beautiful event. The money will be put to good use providing food for those in need in the community. Thank you and Merry Christmas from the Sun Prairie Emergency Food Pantry.

✦ One-A-Week Club ✦

Thanks to Linda Thompson, Fritz Schunke (Aph), Lloyd Perry (dbl red cell), Julie Niemeyer, Ron Mach, Paul Niemeyer, Don Moodie, Anna Moodie, Jacob Niemeyer, Sharon Mundt, Phillip Saganski (dbl red cell), Fritz Schunke, Brian Spredeman, Michael Hall, Byron Bunge (dbl red cell), and Dave Kallstrom who donated blood this month. Our total for the year is now 162 pints. Aph designates Apheresis donations, a special donation of platelets.

Blood donors are needed every day of the year to ensure that patient needs are met. The American Red Cross East Blood Donor Center is located at 2109 Zeier Road, Madison and is open Tuesday, Wednesday, & Thursday, 1:00-6:30 p.m.; Friday, 8:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m.; and Saturday, 7:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Call 227-1357 or visit www.givelife.org to make an appointment.

Community Events

Closer: Moms & Daughters Conference - One day conference for Mothers and their teen daughters. A day of praise, worship, drama, and breakout sessions. Cost is \$35 for mom and the first daughter, each additional daughter is \$17.50. Saturday, January 31 from 9am-4pm at Door Creek Church, 6602 Dominon Dr. Madison. You can register by calling 608-222-8586 or online at doorcreekchurch.org, more information on the conference is available at closermomsanddaughters.com

Oakwood Village East needs technical volunteers to videotape resident programs and worship services a few times a month or weekly during the year. For more information contact Kim Viney at 230-4238 or kim.viney@oakwoodvillage.net.

Thank you - Clothesline Ministry

I would like to say thank you! The gloves and mittens came at the right time. Thank you again for all of your gratuity and kindness. You are helping so many of our families. God Bless you, Diane Zuravle (C.H. Bird Nurse).

Souper Bowl of Caring

Our senior high youth will hold soup kettles at church doors on Super Bowl Sunday, February 1, 2009. They will join young people in churches across the country to collect money for those who are hungry and hurting. In 2008, over 14,000 groups participated in the Souper Bowl of Caring generating over \$8 million dollars.



None of the money is sent to the Souper Bowl of Caring headquarters. Organizers only ask that each participant report their collection so national totals can be determined and announced. Since the Souper Bowl of Caring began in 1990 more than \$41 million has gone to help people in need. We have locally supported the Salvation Army of Madison for the past three years. Proceeds this year will stay locally and go to Joining Forces for Families, which is housed in the Sunshine Place. Please support the youth of our church in this effort to "love our neighbors" by dropping your dollar in the soup pot on February 1.

The Youth and Family Resource team invites you to see:

CHRIS TOMLIN: *Hello Love Tour* with Israel Houghton and New Breed. Saturday, January 31, 2009 7:00pm at the Alliant Energy Center, Madison, WI. Spend an evening with your family, spouse or friends. If you would like a date night, bring your children to Brett's house, where childcare is offered. Sign up on the youth table for instructions on ordering tickets. Cost: \$23-\$33

Green Lake retreat 2009

There is still time to sign up. This year's theme is: *Dare you to move!* All youth grades 6-8, join your friends from Summer Stretch, church, and school for a weekend full of praying, playing, eating, and learning how to get out of your comfort zone. Will there be a FEAR FACTOR? Maybe. The event takes place January 23-25 at Camp Grow in Green Lake, Wisconsin. The cost for the weekend of fun is \$75. A blue registration form was sent in the mail to all 6-8 grade students. See Brett if you have questions or need extra forms. See Brett for

scholarship assistance if there is a financial hardship.

New Fundraiser for OSLC

Our Savior's has recently registered with Simplified SCRIP. With this program, a portion of what you spend at your local retailers is donated back to the OSLC youth. If you are interested in participating or getting more details, check it out at simplifiedscrip.com or see Brett or Tom Hanser.

Early camp registrations due in March

This is a notice for anyone thinking about summer camp through Crossways this year. Whether it is Confirmation camp, senior high camps, elementary-aged camps or family camps, early registration discount ends March 15. Registrations received by the camp after March 15 will be at the regular price. Camp is available for everyone. Financial hardship should never be a reason for missing camp. Assistance is available. See Brett if you have questions.



Coins for Camp

2008 was a great year in camping ministry with various youth camps, confirmation camp, Middle school Blast, Church council retreat and the Youth and Family retreat. Although the camps charge a fee for attending, often this fee does not cover all of the expenses. Our Savior's would like to help out Crossways camp this January by collecting quarters as part of their "Coins for Camp" campaign. Please pick up an empty 35mm film canister from the youth table and fill it with quarters (just \$6.25). Then return them to the box on the Youth Table. All of the quarters collected will be given to Crossways Camping Ministries at the end of January. Any questions see Brett.



Annual Cheesecake sale for Valentine's Day this year!

Cheesecakes will be for sale from the senior high youth starting January 4. Orders will be taken in the narthex during the entire month of January. Cheesecakes can be picked up at the church on Friday, February 13 between 3:00 - 7:00 pm. Proceeds will help the senior high youth, who will attend a mission trip this summer and the National Youth Gathering 2009. See Brett if you have questions. An order form is located below.



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Valentine Cheesecake order form

Order a cheesecake for your valentine on Valentine's Day and support our senior high youth. Gourmets' Delight brings your gourmet goodness and quality with a flavorful selection of exquisite cheesecakes. Each cake is handmade, using fresh, natural, ingredients and no preservatives. Cakes are frozen and precut into 14 slices and can be re-frozen for maximum taste and texture. Cheesecakes can be picked up on February 13 between 3:00-7:00pm. Mark your selection below and make your checks out to: Our Savior's - cheesecakes.

Quantity	Total cost	Quantity	Total cost
_____ Traditional - \$16	_____	_____ Cherry (Heart Shape) \$20	_____
_____ Chocolate Chip - \$16	_____	_____ Pecan Carmel - \$20	_____
_____ Mint C. Chip - \$16	_____	_____ Strawberry - \$20	_____
_____ Chocolate Marble - \$20	_____	_____ Turtle - \$20	_____
_____ Pineapple Coconut Creme- \$20	_____	_____ Raspberry Fudge - \$20	_____
_____ Key Lime - \$20	_____	_____ Cookies & Creme - \$20	_____
_____ Blueberry - \$20	_____	_____ Variety (7 Flavors) - \$20	_____
_____ Mocha Latte' - \$20	_____		
Total Quantity	_____	Total Cost	_____

Please indicate if you are supporting a specific youth. (Name) _____

Celebrating the first anniversary of their baptism this month.

Zain Hay

Those celebrating will receive a post card from the Milestone Ministry Team suggesting ways to celebrate. If you would like to see ideas visit osclca.org/id73.html