A Note from the Pastor... 

Weather-wise, 2017 came to us in an unusual fashion. I really don't remember too many Sundays that have been totally canceled because it wasn't safe to go out – but then it hung on for a week and even affected us yet the next Sunday.

Without offering any comments positively or negatively – some would also point the wild start that is taking place in Washington, DC – which also has an effect upon the nation.

The Church goes onward and forward, led by the Spirit of the Living God.

I read an interesting devotional lately that spoke of Eliezer, the servant of Abraham, who journeyed to the region of the ancestors of Abraham, as an agent of Abraham, seeking a wife for Isaac, the son of Abraham. It has to be noted that all of this occurs immediately after the Akedah – the binding of Isaac where he was taken to the top of the mountain and placed on the altar. Right after this is when Eliezar is sent bearing gifts from the father and the son to the bride.

Likewise, we see that Jesus is offered on the cross but right after that the Holy Spirit is sent, bearing gifts of the Father, calling the bride – the Church. Rebekah heeds the call of Eliezer. Eliezer then accompanies Rebekah on the journey to Abraham and Isaac. The name Eliezer in the Old Testament means: "God is the helper." So too, Jesus calls the Holy Spirit the Helper.

In spite of all that happens in the world around us atmospherically or politically, the Spirit accompanies us in our journey to the Father and the Son. The Church is given the gifts of the Father. So yes, at this Voters' Assembly meeting near the end of January, we called Pastor Philip Alexander to help us with his gifts in our midst, even as Heidi helps us with her gifts and I seek to help with my gifts – all gifts come from the Father through the Spirit for the good of the Church and its journey through this time. Our gifts are joined with your gifts. The reports of God's people at our Voters' Assembly meeting highlighted the gifts of generosity (offerings that exceeded expectations), hospitality, serving, administration, teaching, preaching, through our Boards of Christian Education, Church Properties, Witness and Fellowship, Spiritual Life, Stewardship, Youth and Missions.

I come away from that meeting in a spirit of thanksgiving for the way in which the Helper has helped us in our journey together. Even as Eliezer did not abandon Rebekah on the journey, so we will not be left without our Helper. We are never alone – not for one moment of our life. We have beside us God our Helper – the Agent of God.

The Mission of Living Savior Lutheran Church:
Alive in Christ, we share the love of Jesus--we serve, care for, support and nourish each other, our community, and the world!

Agent of God
February Devotion

If there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.
Philippians 4:8

Our nation, our world and even in some of our homes, we seem to be experiencing a lot of turmoil these days.

The Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke all record Jesus’ words warning, And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. Luke 21:10 says further, Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And since sin entered into the world and into our hearts at the fall recorded in Genesis, there has been all kinds of strife, beginning with the murder by one of the sons of the first of God’s creation. The New Testament gives us several lists of sins we can fall into: dissipation, drunkenness, sexual immorality and sensuality, quarreling and jealousy, envy, orgies, lawless idolatry, anger, pride and the cares of this life. Yikes! There seems to be no end to the kinds of sin we can fall into “suddenly like a trap” as Luke 21:34 warns.

But as we fall into the habit of negative behavior, we can also be guilty of falling into negative thinking. I’m reminded of the story of the two wolves which competed with each other. One thrived on the positive and the other on the negative. When asked which of the two won, the answer was, “The one you feed.”

What am I feeding? I love the Philippians passage of the above text. We have a choice about what to think about and what not to think about. We need to be intentional about focusing on the true, honorable, just and pure. If there is ANYTHING worthy of praise, think about these things.

This is not at all easy when we feel there is an injustice in our circumstances. And that is not to say there is no such thing as righteous anger, but more often than not we are motivated by self-serving attitudes and actions. So in Paul’s letter to the church at Philippi, he gives good advice to us. Rather than getting upset when we don’t like the way things have turned out, we should try to find something positive to think on. Perhaps we can see our faith grow as we trust God in our circumstances or in the culture in which we are living. Rather than trying to convince others that we are right and they are wrong, it would probably be wise to find common meeting ground. This may be especially true with spiritual beliefs. And it is always better to live our faith in such a way that others can see Jesus in us rather than to verbally assault someone. No one is convinced of God’s love by anything other than the love we show to others.

Galatians 5:22-23 gives us the results of positive thinking and faithful living. As opposed to the negative things that keep us from inheriting the kingdom of God, we learn that the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

Doesn’t that list seem a lot more appealing that trying to convince others that we are right and they are wrong? If there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.
**Update from national LWML mite offerings.**

This grant will finance the cost of the care packages, which provide Christ-centered support and hope, for cancer patients across the nation. Weekly cards of encouragement, care packages that are gender specific, and prayer will be provided to those who are battling cancer. This LWML Mission Grant will provide approximately 1,000 care packages for this need.

For a complete list and description of Mission Grants, go to LWML.org/mission-grants.

The goal for the 2015-2017 biennium is $2,000,000. An update of these grants is posted by the large Mite Box in the Narthex (by the exit doors). Mite boxes may also be picked up there. Empty your filled boxes into the large Mite Box. Be sure to pray for the recipients of these grant monies as you put your coins into the box.

**Living Savior is hosting the Board of Directors meeting for the Oregon District LWML on Feb. 24 & 25. We are responsible for providing snacks and a meal for approximately 45 people. If you would be willing to donate your time in helping prepare and serve the food, or by bringing a food item, please sign up on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall. Thanks!**

**MISSION MITES – HERE ARE WHERE SOME OF YOUR MITE OFFERINGS GO...**

**ARE YOU OR YOUR KIDS REPLACING SOME CLOTHES IN THE CLOSET WITH THOSE NEW CHRISTMAS GIFTS?!**

**WE’VE GOT JUST THE PLACE TO DONATE THOSE ITEMS!!**

On Tues, February 28, the Sr. Youth will be volunteering at the NW Children’s Outreach (at Rolling Hills Church). They’ll be bagging orders of clothes that night and would love to bring some donations from Living Savior! Here’s what’s needed…

Slightly used or new (sizes for ages 1-18):

- Coats
- Jeans
- Hoodies
- Tennis shoes
- Socks
- Boots
- Diapers and baby clothes of all sorts
- Coats
- Hoodies
- Tennis shoes
- Socks
- Hats
- Pajamas
- Pajama pants
- Blankets
- Dolls
- Stuffed animals
- Books
- Toys
- Diapers
- Wipes
- Personal hygiene items
- Non-perishable food items
- Sewing supplies

There will be a marked donation box in the Narthex until 12:30pm Sunday, February 26. The Sr. Youth will deliver all clothes that following Tuesday night. Thank you!

**Reducing-the-Risk Training**

Interested in working with children or youth at Living Savior? Planning to volunteer in the areas of children or youth ministry? Then, you need Reducing the Risk Training!

If you are planning to work with any of our youth or children’s ministry programs here at Living Savior, you are required to complete a Reducing the Risk application and attend a training class prior to volunteering. Youth or children’s ministry programs include Sunday School, Jr. and Sr. Youth activities, Vacation Bible School, volunteering in the nursery, etc.

The next Reducing the Risk Training is...

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19**

12:30—3:00 PM

*Refreshments provided*

Contact Heidi Frank (hfrank@living-savior.org) to SIGN UP.

**Your Help is Needed.**

**YOUTH GROUP FOR FEBRUARY!**

**SR. YOUTH**

**WEDNESDAYS**

1/31 (TUES)  Service: Tualatin School House Pantry - a switch from Wed to Tues

2/8  No Sr. Youth

2/15  “Dexter Night”

2/22  Bible Study with Heidi

2/28 (TUES)  Service: NW Children’s Outreach - a switch from Wed to Tues

**FRI-SUN, FEB 10-12**  WINNER RETREAT TO LINCOLN CITY!

**JR. & SR. YOUTH**

**SAT, FEB 4**  Service: Valentine’s Dinner - 4:00-9:00 pm

**FRI-SUN, FEB 10-12**  WINTER RETREAT TO LINCOLN CITY!

*“Blessing our Children, Reducing the Risk of Child Abuse in our Church”*
FEBRUARY FELLOWSHIP/OUTREACH EVENTS

Thursday, Feb. 2, 2017, 1:00 pm, Pastor Brandt Presentation, with refreshments.

Thursday, Feb. 16, Event: "The Painted Plate"
Pick out your pottery and paint it. The Painted Plate fires it. The average cost per item is $25 with a range of $6-$80, depending on size and choice of item. Help will be available from the store’s staff along with samples, stamps and transfer paper with samples of finished products. See the Narthex bulletin board for information or copy from internet pages and signup sheet for event. Your creation will be ready in 4-7 days and we will bring it to the church for you. Meet in LSLC parking lot at 9:30am and drive to Sherwood (16067 SW 1st Street), 503-925-9304. Everyone is invited, but we are limited to 15 people. There is still room available. We will have lunch at Clancy's Restaurant across street for $5-$12.00 each, plus drinks.

Please contact the Church Office, if you have any questions.

Announcement Dilemma!

In our active church body we have so many worthy programs and activities, each desiring to share the joy and the opportunity for member participation. However, communicating this information via verbal announcements during worship service has begun to eat significantly into our education hour and to extend second service completion well past the noon hour. Spiritual Life Board has given repeated consideration to this dilemma and has these recommendations to offer:

1. Reserve verbal announcements during worship for making corrections only where needed to printed material.
2. Include your announcement in Parish Notes by providing print ready wording to the church office by noon on Thursday in order to make the following Sunday’s bulletin insert.
3. Place your upcoming events and activities in the Living Logos by providing a print ready article to the editor by the 20th for publication in the following month’s newsletter. (Judy has access to a large number of graphics and may have suggestions on how to highlight your article if you request.)
4. Post an eye-catching notice on one of our bulletin boards, being respectful of other flyers and overall space available.
5. Create a tag board display for a Narthex easel or tabletop.

We would appreciate your cooperation in implementing these recommendations as you serve and participate in the many boards, committees, and groups that make LSLC such a special place of community, learning and worship.

Spiritual Life Board Chairperson

Fifteen years ago, Community Warehouse began with a clear intention: to provide household goods and furnishings to local families in need, so they could turn empty housing into homes. With each day, it is better understood how significant furnishings are in the lives of families and children. Community Warehouse helps people create homes that nourish dignity and encourage empowered, self-sufficient community members.

Furniture is their currency, but what Community Warehouse really provides is happiness, housing security, stress relief, and improved quality of life for our neighbors in need.

Community Warehouse uses resources that already exist in our community. The answer to the problem of empty housing is here, circulating through our homes. They can redistribute furnishings and housewares that each of us have in our own homes.

If you have useable used items in your home that you would like to donate, please drop them into the purple Community Warehouse drop bag in the entrance into the fellowship hall or drop off your item at:

Community Warehouse
8380 SW Nyberg St.
Tualatin
503-612-0020
M-F, 10:00am – 4:00pm
Sat-Sun, 10:30am – 4:00pm

For more information about Community Warehouse go to:

communitywarehouse.org

WUD YOU LIKE TO VISIT SHUT INS?
Volunteers are trained for this ministry. If you would like to be a part of this ministry or have questions, please contact the Church Office.

DO YOU KNOW OF SOMEONE WE CAN VISIT?
If you have an opportunity to make a positive difference in someone’s life by visiting and bringing to them fellowship and love from the congregation.

WESTERN OREGON COMMUNITY SOUTH

GREETING CARD COLLECTION

Thank you for your generous donations of greeting cards over the last few months. The Shut-In ministry will sort these according to categories. We will continue to collect until after Easter. More cards will be given to other facilities as we collect enough to do so. There is a basket in the narthex marked GREETING CARDS where you can place your donated cards.

"You are those who have stood by me in my trials."
**Tualatin Valley Symphony Concert**

The Tualatin Valley Symphony is now rehearsing at Living Savior and will hold their second concert of the season at LSLC on Sunday, February 12, at 7:00pm. Members of Living Savior may attend the concert for free admission but must pick up a ticket ahead of the concert on Sunday morning or from the church office. This program will feature Symphony No. 1 by Sibelius, Cello Concerto No. 1 by Saint-Saëns, and a chamber symphonic work entitled Three Places in Oregon composed by Joseph Marchanko, the featured cello soloist.

This concert, A Celebration of Love, includes a silent auction to support the music before the concert begins. Your not-so-on-point Christmas gifts are welcome donations and we expect your competitive spirit as you vie for the bargains. Your support of our symphony is so important — we really hope you will join us!

More information at TualatinValleySymphony.org

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**FUTURE DINNER DATES:** Sundays, February 12, and March 12, 5:00-7:00pm.

This is a month by month commitment only. Don’t miss this wonderful opportunity!

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**GRANDPARENTS PARENTING GRANDCHILDREN**

Stephen Ministers were recently privileged to listen to the unique challenges that grandparents in our congregation face parenting their grandchildren.

As of the 2010 U.S. census data, 4.9 million children were being raised solely by their grandparents. This number almost doubled that of the 2000 census of 2.4 million. The opiate epidemic has contributed to this trend. Also, military deployment, a growth in the number of women incarcerated and economic factors are forcing grandparents to step into these parental roles.

Our panels purpose was to better understand the responsibility and stress that comes with becoming an active parent once again. We found that there are varied reasons for assuming the parental role. We, as a Stephen Minister, strive to better understand the people in this situation so that we can come alongside to encourage, listen and support them in prayer.

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**STEFHEN MINISTRY**

**Love One Another As I have Loved You....**

In John 15:12 (NRS), Jesus says, “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.” Loving and caring for one another is not just the pastor’s job - it’s something Jesus calls us all to do! Stephen Ministry is a ministry in which people with special gifts for caring ministry can put those gifts to use in an organized way to bring Jesus’ love and care to those who most need it.

A new training class for Stephen Ministers is starting September, 2017. The Holy Spirit may be calling you to the joy, commitment, growth, meaning, training, service, and care of being a Stephen Minister. Pray for God’s guidance as you consider this opportunity. For more information contact the Church Office.

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**SUPPORT GROUP AT LIVING SAVIOR**

We invite you to connect with others at Living Savior who are giving care or have given care to a loved one. Those who are in the midst of care giving could greatly benefit from those who have gone before them. We meet the third Saturday of the month, 9:00am to share resources, encourage one another and fill our spiritual cup. Please join us! Friends of Living Savior Lutheran are welcome to join us as well. You may know someone in the work place or community who would benefit from our group. Questions? Contact the Church Office.

Saturday, February 18, 9:00am
Library
Living Savior Lutheran
BOOK CLUB

There have certainly been a great many schedule changes for us this icy winter and Book Club is no exception. Due to the cancelation in January we have moved the book “The Emperor of all Maladies” by Siddhartha Mukherjee MD to our Saturday, February 11th meeting at 10:00am. This is a large book and so perhaps the extra time will be helpful to get through it and whether you have read the book or not please know that you are welcome to join the fellowship and enjoy some refreshments. Whether you enjoy participating in discussions or are by nature a listener, there is no pressure and all are welcome. If you have any questions or wish to be added or removed from the Book Club email list please contact the Church office.

Feb. 11 The Emperor of All Maladies: S. Mukherjee, M.D.
Mar. 11 The Wright Brothers David McCullough
Apr. 8 The Map Maker’s Daughter Laurel Corona
May 13 The Plum Tree Ellen Marie Wiseman

Notes from Bethesda Auxiliary

With the new year, comes time to renew membership in Bethesda Auxiliary. The membership forms will be in the Parish Notes February 5 and 12. This year a $10 per person donation is requested. Please make checks payable to Bethesda Auxiliary and check the box indicating if you are renewing membership or are a new member. Last year we had 55 members!

Some Columbia Empire Farms products that are left over from fundraisers at area churches will be on sale for $5.00 per jar while the supply lasts on the Sundays of the membership drive. Selling them will contribute $180.00 toward the ministry of the Auxiliary.

Living Savior Scholarship

The Living Savior Scholarship will be awarded in the spring of 2017. The purpose of the scholarship is to encourage faith development and higher education in the youth of Living Savior Lutheran Church.

All members of Living Savior between the ages of 17 and 25 are encouraged to apply for the $1000 and $500 scholarships to be used in pursuit of a baccalaureate or associate degree during the summer or fall of 2017.

Applications are available between January 1 and March 31 and must be accompanied by an essay of the subject, “What My Christian Faith Means to Me.” The winning entry will be chosen by a 3-member panel and the scholarships will be awarded in May.

As members of Living Savior, we need to raise the scholarship funds. You can make a designated contribution directly to this fund by sending a check to the church and earmarking it for “Scholarship Fund.”

Any questions? Please contact the Church Office.

Kitchen Korner – Labeling Is Important!

We have a problem—a refrigerator problem! A variety of items are stacking up without any identifying labels. This has created a maintenance challenge. What is being reserved for a specific person, group or event? What was purchased for a specific event that has occurred and now the remainder is available for anyone to use? How long has this item been here and is it still safe to use? “Date opened” information will help in deciding if the item should be saved or discarded when someone is doing a refrigerator clean up.

Please get in the habit and LABEL ALL ITEMS going into our LSLC refrigerator (freezer tool!). Labels are provided on the fridge door to make this process as easy as possible. If adhered to, everyone will know how to handle stored items, be able to help use up left over goods and dispose of items that have been there too long.

Thank you for your help in making our kitchen facility a place that works for all of us.

-Properties Board

A note from the congregational President

VOTERS’ ASSEMBLY MEETING – JANUARY 22ND

The Voters’ Assembly Meeting included reports from Pastor Brandt and DCE Heidi Brandt as well as presentations from the Board Chairpersons on accomplishments in 2016 and what they looked forward to in 2017. The 2017 Budget was adopted with only one minor change. There was an unanimous vote to issue a call to Pastor Phil Alexander to help Pastor Brandt and serve our congregation on a quarter time basis. Pastor Alexander has accepted the call with the following:

Hi all –

Wanted to express our sincere thanks for honoring us on Sunday. We are so blessed to have a wonderful church family to worship and have fun with. A special “Thank You” for the opportunity to serve in ministry with you and all of the Saints here. I am really looking forward to getting on board and being, God willing, useful as a tool in His hands and in your company.

Again – Thank you!
Pastor Phil

Come Check Us Out!

DVD’s and books are plentiful in our church library for those long winter nights. Please take a minute to browse through our inventory. The library is located on the second floor, next to the Luther Room (arched entries, formerly known as the “Upper Room”). There is self-check out.