A Note from the Pastor... 

Thought Provoking Passion

The 500th Anniversary of the Reformation this year provides for a confluence of the past with the present and an eye to the future.

Not only did Martin Luther benefit from the ability to communicate through the invention of the printing press, but so did many others including a German artist by the name of Albrecht Dürer (1471-1528). Showing himself to be skilled among many mediums including engravings, sketches, and paintings, it was through the art of woodcuts where the image would be combined with the printing press that would propel Dürer to the status of "famous" within his own life time. An accomplishment rarely enjoyed by most artists.

Although Dürer was brought up and remained a Roman Catholic throughout his life, it is known that he was in the Lutheran camp. In 1520, the year before the Diet at Worms, Dürer wrote a letter to George Spalatin, who served as the secretary to Elector Frederick the Wise saying: "If God helps me to see Dr. Martin Luther, I shall diligently make his portrait and engrave it as a lasting memory of the Christian man who has helped me out of great anxieties." 1 After the Diet at Worms, Dürer, along with most other people presumed that Luther was dead—which wasn’t true but rather put in intentional hiding for protection. The two would never meet face to face. Dürer died very unexpectedly at the age of 57.

However, his work and the influence of the Holy Spirit upon his work can still be seen. We are going to look at a series of Albrecht Dürer’s woodcut prints from a body of work known as the Small Passion during the season of Lent this year. Intriguing details are to be found within the images that provide a thought-provoking opportunity to reflect upon the predicament of man and the plan of God shown through the passion of His Son, Jesus Christ.

As we have been doing for a number of years, we will begin our Lenten Season with the Men’s Pancake Supper at 5:30pm on March 1 and each of the rest of our Lenten gatherings will be preceded by a soup supper—which gives us all the opportunity to contribute our favorite soups. Look for that sign-up sheet.

The services on Wednesday evenings (March 1 – April 5) all begin at 7:15 pm. The Ash Wednesday Service is a special service including the imposition of Ashes (from the burning of the palms) and the celebration of the Sacrament. The rest of our Lenten Services will follow the Holden Evening Prayer liturgy. At each of the Lenten Services we will spend some time with the woodcut images of Albrecht Dürer. He originally published them in a “small” format so that people could carry them along with them and remember the acts of God on their behalf. These images are in the public domain and you will be able to take a copy of them home with you as well. The prayer is that like Dürer, we too would find relief from our anxieties through Jesus Christ our Lord.

1. Lewis W. Spitz, The Renaissance and Reformation Movements (St. Louis, Concordia, 1971), 326.

Pastor Brandt
March at Preschool

Preschoolers and staff are marching towards spring after such a wild winter—we are all ready for a little sunshine. The 2nd graders are starting to spring up reminding us spring really is in its way! Our Bible stories this month include the story of Jonah, Jesus’ baptism, and Jesus calling his disciples. Jonah teaches us that we should listen to and obey God. God is faithful when we are not. Jesus set the example for us when he was baptized. We see God’s promise to us through baptism. Jesus calls his disciples, the 12 men who would be with him and learn from him.

Secular topics this month include water (continued from the end of February) and air and wind. We will read about these topics, observe them in the touch table, and feel and see them when playing outside. There will even be some experiments involving air and wind.

Dramatic play continues with a toy store. Children will be able to buy toys at the store, and work the cash registers for the customers. The drama corner will transform into a house for the last part of the month where children can cook and take care of babies.

Do you know any families in need of a preschool? We have just finished up February enrollment for the 2017-2018 year. We are full in the morning classes and Pre-K but have room available in the afternoon 3 & 4’s classes. Children need to be 3 or 4 years old on or by September 1 to attend school. Please pass the word along and have them call Denice for more information and a tour, 503 692-3303.

As spring approaches we give thanks for our children and their growth this year at preschool.

Denice Hornberger and the Preschool Staff

Living Savior Scholarship

The Living Savior Scholarship will be awarded in the spring of 2017. 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 call the church office at 503 692-3490.

March Devotion

Sometimes the things we plan just don’t happen the way we think they will or the way we want them to. The Bible has many verses which talk about plans—our own plans and God’s plans. Here are a few:

Psalm 20:4
May he grant you your heart’s desire
And fulfill all your plans!

Psalm 33:11
The counsel of the Lord stands forever,
The plans of his heart to all generations.

Proverbs 12:20
Decent is in the heart of those who devise evil,
But those who plan peace have joy.

Proverbs 15:22
Without counsel plans fail,
But with many advisers they succeed.

Proverbs 29:18
Plans are established by counsel!
By wise guidance wage war.

Isaiah 14:24
The Lord of hosts has sworn:
“As I have planned, so shall it be,
And as I have purposed, So shall it stand....

Isaiah 32:8
But he who is noble plans noble things:
And on noble things he stands.

Jeremiah 29:11-12
For I know the plans I have for you...to give you a future and a hope.
Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart.

Acts 2:23
This Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God...

Although we think we know what the best plans are, it seems that often the things we pray for are not answered or the answer is no. This calls for a faith that is built on trusting in God.

When we experience circumstances that are hard to bear, we must trust in God’s providence and wisdom remembering that nothing surprises Him nor is anything beyond His control.

Many things can test our faith. We may lose a job, a spouse, a good friend, a pet or any of a number of things, all of which cause us a great deal of hurt and sorrow. These are the times when it is hardest to trust, but it is also in the times of trust when our faith grows the most as we depend on God to meet our needs in His timing and in His way.

The following devotion by Corrie ten Boom gave me great comfort when I could not see why God was not answering my prayer in the way I wanted:

“Does God always give us what we ask in prayer?” Sometimes His answer is no. He knows what we do not know. He knows everything and His negative answer is part of His plan for our lives.

My life is but a weaving, between my God and me. I do not choose the colors, He worketh steadily. Ofttimes He weaveth sorrow, and I in foolish pride, Forget He sees the upper, and I the underside. Not till the loom is silent and the shuttles cease to fly, Will God unroll the canvas and explain the reason why. The dark threads are as needful in the skillful Weaver’s hand, As the threads of gold and silver in the pattern He has planned.

From Each New Day by Corrie ten Boom ©1977

So when the dark threads show up in our life and our plans seem to go awry, we can remember that we may not know the reasons, but we know the master weaver. He knows the plans He has for me. To give you a future with hope. (Jeremiah 29:11)
Mission Mites

Update from national LWML mite offerings.

Thank You from Outreach in Refugee Camps-Lebanon

Thanks to your financial support, the mission grant for Outreach in Refugee Camps-Lebanon has been paid. This grant for Middle East Lutheran Ministry (MELM) from Lutheran Hour Ministries (LHM) for $72,000 will turn around the cycle of poverty and provide assistance to women and children through sharing with them the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Pictured above is Middle East Lutheran Ministries staff member Katia Sahyouni. Katia will be a Mites in Action speaker at the upcoming LWML Convention in Albuquerque, New Mexico, where she will share stories of distributing relief materials from LHM and LWML in the refugee camps.

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 that you may drop your donated cards into.

Come Check Us Out!

DVD’s and books are plentiful in our church library.

Please take a minute to browse through our inventory. The library is located on the second floor, next to the Upper Room (arched entries). There is self-check out system.

Westlunds Attend Stephen Ministry Training Event

Valorie and Andrew were among 247 pastors and church leaders at a Stephen Series Leader’s Training Course (LTC) in Anaheim, California January 29 - February 4.

The fast-paced, seven-day course began on Sunday evening, January 29, and concluded the following Saturday at noon.

The role of a Stephen Leader is to direct Stephen Ministry in the congregation. They are the ones who recruit, select, train, and supervise Stephen Ministers, and they locate people with needs for care and match them to a Stephen Minister. They also build awareness regarding Stephen Ministry in the congregation and community.

The training at an LTC differs from the 50 hours of Stephen Minister training in the congregation because the LTC focuses on the administrative and supervisory aspects of Stephen Ministry. The Stephen Minister training we periodically offer here at Living Savior Lutheran focuses on the actual caregiving skill Stephen Ministers will use in their caring relationships.

Valorie and Andrew join the existing Stephen Leader Team at Living Savior.

“Valorie and Andrew will make a fine addition to our Stephen Leader Team.” “These Stephen Leaders help poised us for the future as we look ahead to training another class of Stephen Ministers come September, 2017. Their individual gifts and strength give new dimensions to our leadership team, which will make for a stronger ministry for everyone at Living Savior.”

If you would like more information about Stephen Ministry, how to receive care from a Stephen Minister, or how to become a Stephen Minister, please contact any of the Stephen Leaders. You can call the church office or Pastor Brandt directly for more information.

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 workplace or community who would benefit from our group.

Saturday, March 18, 9:00am
Library
Living Savior Lutheran
FIVE YEARS LATER

Have you ever stood in the wake of a disaster and wondered how God was going to bless you?

Well, if you were attending Living Savior Lutheran five years ago, this March 19, your likely answer is, “Yes!”

The word “surreal” is mightily over used but the term applied to the aftermath of the fire and especially so in the days following. We were in a state of shock but resolved that we would continue on despite the circumstances. So, two days later as an unusually late snow was falling, we huddled together for a midweek Lenten service. Beneath a canopy in the parking lot we would find comfort in each other’s presence and in the words that Pastor Brandt spoke to us, reminding us God was still in charge and that we, the people who form the church, were indeed surviving despite the fact that the building we call “the church” had not. It was surreal to smell the charred wood, to look at the shell of the building, and then to realize that we could also feel the presence of the Holy Spirit as we worshipped.

It’s remarkable to think that five years have passed so quickly. Like other shocking events, I’m sure that you can recall where you were when you received the news. I was awakened by my cousin calling at about 6:30am tearfully telling me that our church was burning and she was praying. It was painful to see the flames in the news coverage. Not knowing whether we would have anything left was unsettling especially since our sanctuary was only three years old.

We came to find out that it was arson and that a couple of young teens were involved. The community expected us to condemn these boys and many were surprised to find us instead, speaking words of forgiveness and praying. In those initial hours we were already doing the work of the church in reaching out to the community and demonstrating grace.

The hard work of rebuilding was spread out among the many who participated in meeting after meeting to determine how to salvage the sanctuary, meet with the architect, determine how best to utilize the footprint of the fellowship hall, gather hard data to give to the insurance company, figure out how to finance the re-build, plan a capital campaign to raise the funds for the re-designed fellowship hall, determine where to hold worship in the interim, where to hold various meetings, and then plan the re-design so that our church would be better equipped to serve the community when it was finished. So many opened their homes for Bible studies, Book Club meetings, senior and junior high youth meetings, Stephen Ministry training and more. It was a time of sacrificial giving of time, talent, and treasure.

Opportunities for blessings emerged in all of the different activities associated with the re-build. Living Savior’s history of working together to solve problems was already a blessing, but that became even stronger as committees met to tackle various issues that arose. Media coverage gave us the opportunity to reach out to the larger metropolitan community to share what we means to truly forgive and to make ourselves known as a welcoming community. We have re-designed a building that can now better serve our congregation and community in terms of holding events and in providing disaster assistance.

There are very many stories, remembrances, and observations that should be shared as we celebrate this milestone over the coming year. Please consider writing them up to submit for publication as we commemorate the 5th anniversary of this event.

- Ruth

Out of Ashes

APPLEBEES
8559 SW Old Tualatin-Sherwood Road
Saturday, April 8
8:00 - 10:00 am
$8.00/person

Our Sr. Youth will be serving a hot breakfast inclusively for ticket holders at the Tualatin Applebee’s!

Breakfast tickets go on sale Sunday, March 19. You may get your tickets on Sunday mornings after the worship services or during the week at the church office.

All proceeds to benefit Mission Trip 2017

BOOK CLUB

We will be meeting on Saturday, March 11th at 10:00am to discuss the book, “The Wright Brothers” by David McCullough. You are warmly invited to join us for good fellowship and of course, refreshments.

Apr 8
The Map Maker’s Daughter
Laurel Corona

May 13
The Plum Tree
Ellen Marie Wiseman

Scrip Fundraising While You Shop™

Scrip is a great way to boost our ministries. With Scrip you can shop at your favorite stores and the church will receive profits. You can purchase Scrip at the church office or online. Please contact the church office for more information.

Flapjack Fundraiser

Flapjack fundraiser during the week at the church office.

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?
Please contact the church office.

Would you like to visit Shut Ins?

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Thursday, March 2, 2017 Regular Meeting, 1:00 PM
Pastor Brandt will be presenting another exciting topic for your enjoyment and fascination. Please do not miss it. Refreshments will be served.

Thursday, March 16, "Creo Chocolate Factory"
Great opportunity to "make & taste your own Chocolate creation". Limited to 20 people. **Sign up at the Amazing Grays bulletin board in the Narthex today.** $15.00 for "Make a Bar Experience" and tour of Creo Chocolate Factory. Also you may purchase, chocolate bars, brownies, brewed cacao, hot chocolate and chocolate soda in the factory. Leave 9:30 AM LSLC parking lot, Tour is 10:25-11:30 AM. **Please wear close toed shoes.** **Driving instructions from I-5 South:** Take Exit 302A to NE Weidler St., Turn right and continue on NE Weidler two blocks to NE 2nd Ave. and continue one block to NE Broadway. Turn left on NE Broadway Street, 122 NE Broadway, "Creo Chocolate", Portland, OR 97232, Ph. 503-477-8927.

We plan to eat at Koji Osakaya Japanese Restaurant, 606 NE Broadway, Portland, OR 97215, Ph. 503-294-1169 after the Chocolate Factory tour about 11:45 AM.

**Dinners of Eight**

Our last of three dinners will be Sunday, March 12th, 5:00-7:00pm. You may sign up on the "chef" poster in the church narthex until March 5th. You will be contacted the week of the dinner by the host with the host's address and a request for a side dish.

**WHAT:** What are Dinners of Eight? They are dinners for about eight participants, to be held at a host’s home. Multiple suppers will be going on at various locations on the same day. The host will generally provide the main entrée with other diners bringing a side dish, salad or dessert.

**WHY:** This is an opportunity to spend more time getting to know each other, renewing friendships, and just having time to talk and enjoy each other’s company.

**HOSTS NEEDED:** Please check the host column on the sign-up sheets in the narthex.

**FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN:** There has also been interest in full family participation in the Dinners of Eight. Families who would like their children to participate in these events at the church in the Fellowship Hall or in a home, please sign the sheet labeled “Families with Children” and indicate if you would be willing to host. A host will call/email others to participate in the potluck. Also indicate the number of children.

This is not just for couples. We can accommodate from 7 to 10 people. Don’t miss this wonderful opportunity!

**SR. YOUTH**

SUNDAYS, 2/26 - 4/9 - Bible Class: "Christianity & Contemporary Issues" Teacher: Adrian Moons
TUES, FEB 28 - Service: NW Children’s Outreach (Rolling Hills Church)
WED, MARCH 15 - Youth Leaders Assist with Lenten Worship
SUN, MARCH 19 - Group Home Spring Get-together!
- Ticket sales begin for Applebee’s Flapjack Breakfast (April 8)

**FRI, MARCH 3  Mini Lock-In**

**JR. YOUTH**

**We need your input!**

Spiritual Life Board is a body that represents the members of this congregation by providing oversight at Living Savior in various areas. Included are the normal, routine decisions that deal with making our church and worship services run smoothly. Our board members are diverse (some older, some younger; some men, some women; some attend early service, some late). We, therefore, are hopeful that we have a reasonable grasp of the overall “pulse” of our congregation. It is helpful to get individual feedback to aid our collective thinking. We have noticed a trend in worship attendance over the past few years: early service numbers increasing and late service numbers decreasing. Your input is needed if we are going to understand the reason for the current trend and determine what action, if any, is in the best interest of our congregation.

Sometime in March, we will be sending you an email with a link to a short survey (less than ten questions) using Survey Monkey. This can be completed anonymously or you may choose to add your name. Once the online survey has been sent, we will also offer a paper and pencil version for two Sundays which will be available in the Narthex for those who prefer this method. Individual results will remain confidential but over all conclusions will be shared once analysis is completed.

The Spiritual Life Board hopes each of you will constructively respond to this survey, either online or using the paper version, to help us make the best decisions for our church body going forward.

Thank you in advance for your participation!

Sincerely,

Spiritual Life Board
Notes from Bethesda Auxiliary

Welcome to My World Classes
Students is Mrs. Enriquez’ Sunday school class are very interested in learning about what it feels like to have different handicaps. Each Christmas, before caroling at the group homes, I teach a class about how it feels to be mentally challenged and we discuss other handicaps in general. This year a very enthusiastic student asked when I would be teaching about these other handicaps and Mrs. Enriquez expressed that other students are also interested in having some classes. So I will be using “Welcome to My World” information for future classes on February 26, March 26 and April 30. We will explore being blind, deaf, the inability to walk or use your hands and several other handicaps.

God made all of us very unique and as we learn about different challenges, we are helped to be sensitive and caring to all people. Jesus did say, “Love your neighbor as I have loved you.”

You are invited to join us for these classes during the Education Hour on these dates.

-Sylvia

Support For the Auxiliary
Thank you to the members of the congregation who renewed their membership or became a new member in February. You are now part of an organization that has been serving people so often overlooked or underserved in society and even our congregations for 61 years.

Weather and health gave us problems early in the year, so you may still become a member of the Auxiliary if you wish to support those with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Please get in touch with me early in March if you want to give financial support.

May our humble prayer be the same as Martin Luther’s, Grant that I may not pray alone with the mouth, help me that I may pray from the depths of my heart.

-Sylvia

Lenten Soup Suppers
Wednesdays - March 8, 15, 22, 29, and April 5
5:45 p.m.
Living Savior Fellowship Hall

Please see the sign-up sheet in the Narthex to bring soup, rolls, or dessert and to help with set-up and clean-up.
Looking forward to a delicious time together!

Worship services follow each week beginning at 7:15pm

Support For the Auxiliary

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 blue 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, 10:00 am – 4:00 pm
Sat-Sun, 10:30 am – 4:00 pm

For more information about Community Warehouse go to: communitywarehouse.org

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE
Year to Date Contributions, as of 02/19/2017 are as follows:

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<th></th>
<th>Received</th>
<th>Budget</th>
<th>Variance</th>
<th>Building fund</th>
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<tr>
<td>General Fund</td>
<td>$76,480</td>
<td>$76,981</td>
<td>-$501</td>
<td>$13,598</td>
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</tbody>
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“A Time to Rebuild” Contributions: $77,838
Thank you for your generous gifts!

Debt Update:
The current balance on the Building Loan is $1,548,028
Future gifts to the Building Fund will continue to be applied to the loan balance.

Our deepest sympathy for the family of Judy Benjamin.
Judy was a long-time member of Living Savior and especially active on the Altar Guild.
She died Saturday, February 19 after a long series of illnesses.

A Funeral Service was held on Sunday, February 26. Memorials may be contributed to Living Savior Lutheran Church.