The Next Big Thing(s)...

Writing here on the cusp of our vacation time, I still can’t help but give thanks to the Lord for the way in which people within congregation came together, worked and offered of themselves for the sake of “A Reformation Walk” – our summer Vacation Bible School. Again and again – Thank you! Educationally, I think we would have to call it an experience more than strictly a school – or if a “school” then certainly a hands-on type of school where skits, songs, crafts, games and meals were all woven together under the theme of the Reformation Era. I would also note for you that it drew from some people in the community. Attendance topped out at about 150 but there were closer to 180 people involved as new people kept coming and others could not come every evening. There are at least three potential baptisms that may come as a result of our contacts.

Sandy Miller is quite interested in putting our heads together concerning doing the “Echoes of the Hammer” musical in its totality. That will require some effort – but as we have witnessed within these five days in July – the talent is certainly here.

As a congregation, we have also been asked to host the West Hills / Pacific Circuit’s Reformation Service to be held on the afternoon of October 29 at 4:00pm. Pastor Michael Warmbier, the Visitor for the Pacific Circuit will be the Preacher for the occasion. The Church Council has undertaken the planning of the events of that day and you can look for more on this in the near future.

We are already also setting our sights on the celebration of Christmas. There is perhaps no better year to highlight the contributions that Martin Luther made to the Christmas season – evidenced by the hymns of that season in our hymnbook written by him. The hymn: “From Heaven Above To Earth I Come” provides the framework for a children’s pageant that he wrote for his own children.

Finally, the reverberations of our VBS this summer even have us looking to next summer as well. I can tell you this much – that ideas have been floated and concepts have already been discussed. While writing our own material for these events is considerably more work – it is an effort that has many benefits.

The Church Picnic is held this month – with one service on August 6th. The single worship service is at 10:15am and the picnic will follow. Please consult the parish notes for more details. I can tell you that the meat (main dish) and sweet corn of the picnic will be provided and that potluck contributions from all of you will round out the food for day.

Thank you for the time away for some vacation. May the Lord bless all of you with some time to relax this summer or sometime in the near future.
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 ... MONDAY, AUGUST 21 6:30—9:00 PM Refreshments provided

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

A friend who now lives in southern California called me this evening. He has lost almost all of his vision over the past few years. The last time we visited him a couple years ago, he still had limited sight but knew that the prognosis was not good. When he called a few months ago, he was quite depressed as he was almost totally blind and his life seemed to be closing in on him. He was no longer able to get himself to the bus stop and taxis were beyond his financial ability. He needed a neighbor to pick up his mail and read it to him. I understood how painful it was for him to completely accept that his life would never be the same and he would need to adjust to living as a blind individual.

Tonight, his call was much more positive. He has received help to use devices which made him able to connect electronically to the outside world. But he still feels very isolated, unable to socialize or travel outside his apartment. He has made connections with resources which have allowed him to help with his finances and future health concerns. These steps have helped relieve some of his depression.

However, there is still the question of, “Why me, Lord?” Being an ordained minister, my friend knows that there is not an answer to that question. In fact, when I mentioned to him that I needed to write this devotion, he told me to write about John 9: The man who was born blind. When asked who was born blind, the man or his parents, Jesus answered: “It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him.” (verse 3)

My friend says he prays that he will be able to recognize how God’s glory will be revealed through his circumstances.

As I pondered this I thought about the fact that we all have circumstances that are beyond our control which might cause us to ask, “Why me, Lord?” Why am I ill? Why has my job ended? What could I have done to have a better relationship with my spouse, my children, my neighbors? How will I handle retirement? Why cancer? Why do we have to suffer with illness and death?

The answer to life’s hard questions comes in the name of Jesus. Since we were born with a sinful nature, we will suffer the consequences of sin. But one wise pastor answered the question of why there is illness, pain and death by pointing out that these are the things that get us to heaven. What if we had to live forever in the world as it is today? Not a very happy thought, is it? Why do we cling to this life when heaven offers so much more?

Jesus came into this world to save us from the consequences of sin such that death will no longer have the power to keep us apart from God our Father. Now we rejoice in our salvation through Jesus’ sacrifice on our behalf. Although we may not receive physical healing as we would like, we are guaranteed of this spiritual healing which brings everlasting life with God.

We can prayerfully look at our circumstances — both good and bad — and see how God can be glorified in them. How can the works of God be displayed in our response to what is going on in our life and how we interact with those around us? If we can’t see right away how God can be glorified, we can pray that He will reveal the answer to us in His good time. And we can look for opportunities to point others to the grace of God.


devotion

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped.

Isaiah 35:5

Blessing our Children, Reducing the Risk of Child Abuse in our Church

... the LORD opens the eyes of the blind. The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous.

PSALM 146:8,9

August Devotion

- Judy Chase

the scoop for AUGUST !

SR. YOUTH

WEDNESDAYS 8/2 - Planning Party! (5:00 - 8:30 pm)
8/9 - No Sr. Youth
8/16 - Mini Golf at Tualatin Island Greens (7:00-8:30 pm)
8/23 - No Sr. Youth
8/30 - Mission Trip Presentation Prep (7:00-8:30 pm)

JR. YOUTH

THURS. AUG 24 Parent/Youth Planning Party! (6:00 - 8:30 pm)
The Living Savior Women’s Group is meeting on Saturday, August 5, beginning at 10:00am. Women will shuck the corn for the church picnic and then enjoy a salad lunch. Please come and enjoy fellowship with the wonderful women of our church.

The picnic will follow the service. The Men’s Club will supply BBQ chicken and The women’s group will provide corn on the cob supplied by Fred Meyer. Bring a salad, dessert or side dish to share. Drinks and table ware will be provided. Please come and enjoy the fellowship.

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Come Check Us Out!

GREAT SUMMER READS and VIEWING!

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.

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Thank you to all the regular participants in the Scrip program. We have raised almost $4,000 since January. We have another $5,000 to raise to meet our goal of $9,000 by December 31st. We need everyone’s participation.

Many of you are asking, “What is Scrip”?? Well, a simple answer - Gift Cards. We purchase them at a discount from the merchant, resell them to you at full value, and in turn, raise funds to bring the mortgage debt down.

Example: You buy at $100 Freddies gift card and the church makes $4. How easy is that? If you buy some of the restaurant gift cards it is an 8 to 12% kick back. It is so easy and it adds up when everyone participates, even if just a little bit.

Those who shop at Fred’s or Amazon online, have two ways to help Living Savior. One, purchase the gift card at a 4% profit, and second, make sure you have signed for either the FM rewards program and Amazon Smile (https://smile.amazon.com/ch/93-0725977) and choosing Living Savior as your non profit of choice and we get money back each quarter. The last check from Fred Meyer was about $400 and Amazon $75. That is just plain FREE money.

You can buy from what we have in stock at the Scrip counter every Sunday between services. For those items we don’t carry, you can order on the order forms found at the Scrip Mailbox or counter. The next summer order is July 30th and starting on August 20th, every Sunday. You will receive your order the following Sunday.

If you haven’t tried it yet, come on by the counter and we will be happy to answer any questions you may have and guide you through the process. So, hop on board the Scrip train and help us meet our goal of $9,000!

Questions: Contact the Church office.
**Women’s Retreat**

The Oregon District LWML is hosting a *women’s retreat* this fall. Mark your calendar for September 29th – October 1.

The theme is “Above All Else, Guard Your Heart” and will be held at the Macleay Christian Retreat Center just east of Salem. Check out the Oregon Leaguer in the tract rack or find registration forms on ORLWML.org.

The cost is $150 for two nights lodging and five meals. Scholarships will be available if needed.

Contact the Church office for more information.

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**Shut In Ministry**

“*You are those who have stood by me in my trials.*”  -Luke 22:28

Living Savior has an active team of people who have a heart for those who are unable to attend church because of illness or disabilities. As a visitor to shut ins, they have an opportunity to make a positive difference in someone’s life by visiting and bringing to them fellowship and love from the congregation.

- **WOULD 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?**
  - Contact the Church office.

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**Book Club**

Book Club will resume regular meetings on **Saturday, September 9th** at 10am. We will be discussing “Mornings on Horseback” by David McCullough. This is a historical novel about Teddy Roosevelt and written by the author of the historical novel “The Wright Brothers” which we enjoyed reading this past year. You are welcome to join us on the second Saturday of each month from September through May whether you have read the book of the month or not. We enjoy good fellowship, lively discussions and of course refreshments. If you have questions contact the Church office.

**Our reading list for 2017-2018 is:**

- Sept. 9 **Mornings on Horseback** David McCullough
- Oct. 14 **Luther and Katharina** Jody Hedlund
- Nov. 11 **The Return of the Prodigal Son** Henri Nouwen
- Dec. (no meeting)

Jan. 13 **Anne of Green Gables** L.M. Montgomery
Feb. 10 **Astoria** Peter Stark
Mar. 10 **The Secrets of Mary Bowser** Lois Leveen
Apr. 14 **The Girl Who Wrote Silk** Kelli Estes
May 12 **Rise of the Rocket Girls** Nathalia Holt

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**Community Warehouse**

**USED GOODS TO GOOD USE**

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

**Most needed items, no missing parts:**

- Pots & Pans
  - Clear, no excessive wear
- Baking Pans & Dishes
  - Clear, no chips, cracks or broken parts
- Toasters/Toaster Ovens
  - Working condition
- Can Openers
- Dressers
  - Good condition: 6 foot or smaller
- Mattresses
  - 15 yr. or newer, stain free
- Kitchen Tables/Chairs
  - Good condition, 5ft. or smaller
- Sleeping Pillows
  - Free from stains & tears
- Blankets
  - No electric, no stains & tears
- Alarm Clocks
  - Working condition

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**Amazing Grays**

**Coming Amazing Grays Events**

**August:** Amazing Grays do not meet this month.

**September:** **Thursday, September 7,** Pastor Brandt presentation

**Thursday, September 21.** — Timberline Lodge at Mt. Hood. Leave LSLC parking lot at 9:00am to experience a guided tour with lunch at the Ramsherd Restaurant on the second floor with a beautiful view of Mt. Hood.

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Does Summertide Stress Slow You Down?

We like to think of summer as being a relaxing, enjoyable time. Hurts, struggles, crises, and problems don’t take a vacation. Often our difficulties seem even worse during the summer because everyone else seems to be enjoying life while you are feeling down. If you are experiencing a difficult time—emotionally, spiritually, or relationally—you don’t have to suffer alone. Our Stephen Ministers are trained caregivers, ready to listen, care for and encourage you, pray with and for you, and provide one-to-one Christian care to help you through whatever it is that you are facing. Men are matched with male Stephen Ministers and women are matched with female Stephen Ministers. It’s free. It’s confidential. It will make a difference in your life! Contact Pastor Brandt or a Stephen Leaders if you would like a Stephen Minister or know of someone who would benefit from having one.

A new training class for Stephen Ministers is starting September 7, 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:
Pastor Brandt 503-693-3490

Living Savior will host a Red Cross blood drive on Friday, July 29, from 8:00am to 1:30pm. To register to donate blood, please call 800-733-2767 or access redcrossblood.org/make-donation.

Annual Phil Freibley Memorial Golf Tournament

WHEN: September 10, 2017, 1:00 pm, trophy presentation to follow play
WHERE: Charbonneau Country Club, Wilsonville
WHAT: Nine holes of play, scramble format
Four person teams – coming as a single? We will assign you to a team. Or sign up with three friends as a team of four.
Sign up sheet in the narthex. Questions, contact the Church office.

News from Bethesda Lutheran Auxiliary

Bethesda Auxiliary members are invited to the Bethesda Oregon Picnic on Friday, August 11, at Cook Park in Tigard. Volunteers are needed to check in guests, set up, clean up, co-ordination of games, help with singing and karaoke from 9am until 4:00pm. Please call Sylvia at 503-598-6722 if you would like to help.

There is an opportunity for Bethesda Auxiliary and congregations to share the love of Jesus in word and deed by offering activities, Bible study and/or devotions weekly or once a month. People in Bethesda’s vocational day programs are now choosing what they would like to do instead of activities at one location.

Greeting Card Collection

We are once again collecting cards to replenish two assisted living facilities, Marquis and Riverwood in Tualatin. If we receive enough cards we hope to offer cards to The Springs in Sherwood. The Shut In ministry team will be sorting all of the collected cards in October. If you have Christmas cards that you don’t have use for, please add these so that we can get them to the facilities for use during the holidays. Please contact the Church office if you have any questions.

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