A Note from the Pastor...

EPHIPANY!

The festival of Epiphany falls on a Sunday this year – January 6. Our Scripture readings for that day will feature the Magi from the Gospel of Matthew. A sign in the heavens told them that He who had been born King of Jews had come and they came to Judea seeking Him so that they might worship him. At first they logically go to Jerusalem (since it was the capital city of the Jews) but there they learned from the Teachers of the Law that everyone knew that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem. So they go, in search of the child and they find him in a house in Bethlehem and there they offer Him their gifts of gold, frank incense and myrrh.

For those of the Eastern Church – this is Christmas! We may be a bit tired – having been forced to celebrate the Christmas season beginning right at Halloween or so... but for the people of the Easter Church, this is Christmas when the Magi find the child Jesus in the home of Joseph and Mary and their they bow and offer Him their gifts.

In a sense, we have appropriated this story as a reminder that Jesus was not just born for the Jewish people, but for everyone (even for Gentile Magi who have come from a distant undisclosed land). Hence, the Epiphany season is the “to make known” season – that Jesus is for everyone and everyone is going to find out about Jesus through the Christian community who follows Jesus (with hands that serve, feet that go, tongues that speak and smiles that lower levels of fear).

Therefore, during this season of Epiphany, we are going to take the opportunity to make known what we are doing as a congregation in the world and in our church and in our community as followers of Jesus. The Board of Mission and Service seeks to help us become better informed about the various missions and agencies that we support. And in doing this, it is not as though we are looking for anyone to dig deeper in their pockets for a special offering, but rather so that you might be better informed about those that we already support - including:

- Lutheran World Relief and LCMS World Relief
- Community Partners for Affordable Housing (CPAH)
- Lutheran Community Services Northwest
- The Mission Outreach of our District and Church Body as well as These Numbers Have Faces and the Mission Outreach of Deaconess Carol Halter & Rev. Mark Rabe
- Bethesda Lutheran Communities
- Tualatin Food Pantry

Between Epiphany and the Transfiguration of our Lord (which leads into the season of Lent) we are going to take time during our Bible Class Hour on Sunday mornings to hear and see this work in action. The season of Epiphany is perfect for this type of emphasis and, thanks to the work of Shari Remmick, it is coming with some guest presenters. This congregation has been very generous in supporting the work of our Lord on a number of levels.

We are also taking time on February 3 to revisit our 40th Anniversary with Part II of Living Savior’s History. Look for more to come.

Pastor Brandt
January 2019. A new year — a time for new resolutions, new choices, new opportunities, experiences, relationships, struggles, new areas of pain and pleasure, doubt and success, of indecision and confidence, of despair and of hope. Each new day brings new circumstances and situation which we react to. This is what we call “life.” It is the nature of our existence, of our created being, that we do not know the future. Each day is new and can be viewed as 24 hours filled with opportunities or challenges.

There are dozens of sayings about choices and situations we may encounter. For example:

- When life hands you a lemon, make lemonade.
- It isn’t our position but our disposition that makes us happy.
- Happiness is not a station you arrive at, but a manner of traveling.

We could exchange many words for happiness in that last statement — contentment, faithfulness, peacefulness. You choose.

These statements are often called “truisms” because they are generally true. They are a great way to encourage us to think about things with a new perspective or to gently remind us that we may need to have an “attitude adjustment” in some areas of our life.

But a truism that tells us to cheer up when we are depressed or hurting can bring us a feeling of guilt or pessimism. How can we feel happy when a loved one is dying? How can we feel peaceful when our mind is in constant turmoil? How can we feel forgiven when we are in the middle of a child-custody battle with a former spouse? How can we feel forgiven when faced with our own faithlessness, or shortcomings, our disobedience, our lack of desire to even look at the areas of our lives which might need changing?

Fortunately the eternal, spiritual reality of our lives is not based on our feelings, but on God’s work in sending His Son to redeem us from the consequences of sin. We do not need to “feel” saved to be saved. This is Good News indeed for all believers.

When we are feeling discontented, confused, angry, worried or even faithless, the devil tempts us to doubt our salvation and our relationship with God. He even tempts us to doubt the reality or existence of God, set alone a God who chooses to be not only Savior but also our friend, our spiritual Father/Mother, confidant, Comforter, Counselor and encourager.

We look to Christ in Matthew 4 as our example of how to deal with temptation. Christ knew the Word of God and He used it to refute the temptation of the Accuser. We, too, should be encouraged to read, study and even memorize Scripture to be ready to guard against the accusations of the devil, the world and even ourselves.

You may wish to choose Proverbs 3:5-6 as a verse to memorize and keep before you in the face of temptation and as an encouragement as new opportunities and experiences are ahead. We need to be reminded daily (hourly) to put our trust for all things and in all circumstances in the Lord who has proven Himself worthy of our trust. We can be confident that He will direct our paths, wherever they lead.

Remember: The Bible is meant to be bread for our daily use—not cake for special occasions.

I encourage all of us to eat daily from Scripture and find and choose a verse or several verses to be an encouragement in the days of 2019.
WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

The Amazing Grays is sponsoring a series of topics we feel the congregation needs to be aware of. These are timely issues that touch each of our lives.

The first topic is how the new tax code touches your pocket book. Len D. will present on Thursday, Jan. 3, at 1:00pm at the Church what change it has on your tax planning, and required documentation. Please bring your questions to this educational event.

The second topic is “Basic Estate Planning and Long Term care Options”. Darin D. will present on Thursday, Jan. 17, at 1:00pm at the Church. Please bring a note book and pencil to these events as you might need to reference some of these topics.

The third topic is Feb. 7, at 1:00 pm - What you need to know about scams and fraud. Ellen K. with the Oregon Dept. of Justice will be with us.

We hope these topics will enlighten you and stimulate some lively questions and receive the answers. See you there! Dave C.

JUNIOR YOUTH—MINI LOCK-IN
January 25th
6 PM to 10:30 PM.

This event will start with dinner and games and we will do a service event of making activity bags for the children of Family Promise of Tualatin Valley. In 2019, Living Savior will be one of 13 host churches helping this organization help families with children who are homeless in our communities. To date, the school systems have identified 159 homeless children in the Tigard, Sherwood, and Tualatin school districts. We will be housing up to 14 people at a time for four separate weeks in 2019. During the day they are not at church, but come back for evening meals, evening activities, and sleep. These activity bags should be very useful for the little children.

-Ginger L.

SR. YOUTH PARENTS & TEENS

Save the Date: Please join us Friday, Jan. 4 from 10:00pm until waaaaaayyyyy into the morning of Jan. 5 at 8:00am for — wait for it — Sr. Youth Lock In!

There will be a food bar and card games in the Fellowship Hall — movies and popcorn in the Youth Room — chillax area in the Library— Let’s even say there might be a dance party and of course, sardines will be played! So come one, and come all (friends are welcome)! There will be more info to follow via email. If you as a parent would love to see what the “hype” is about, volunteer to spend all night getting to know your fellow parents — hanging out with some really cool kids & understanding why your own teen really likes Sr. Youth! Can’t wait to see y’all there!

-Jennifer K.

CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Call Committee is awaiting more names that will be coming. The Committee will give a report to the congregation at the Voters’ Meeting in January. We continue to hold this process in our prayers.

Looking Ahead—Save the Date

February 16
6:00 to 8:30pm
Italian Cuisine
$8.00 per person
1 glass of wine is included

Valentine’s Dinner

CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE
**Prison Ministry - Angel Tree**

You are blessed in a way that you could never have imagined. Your generosity helped provide 100 children with the only Christmas that many of these prisoners’ children would have. But you will also experience the profound joy of showing a child unconditional love. This was possible with Kathy V. and the Women’s group continuing with the project and in securing Gea C. as coordinator. Also all the volunteers who made the calls, Amazing Gray’s for setting the tree and each of you for taking an Angel gift tag, all the ladies who helped wrap and for your financial support. Mike M. and his team delivered these gifts and brought a smile to these families from Living Savior. Thank You Living Savior for your generosity and participation.

**Journey of Discipleship**

In the Season of Epiphany we will be featuring some of our Mission Projects in the services and education hour. We will be updated on the services of these organizations and also find opportunity for volunteer participation. The first two presentations will feature Community Partnership for Affordable Housing and Lutheran Community Services Northwest. Refer to Pastor Brandt’s article on page 1 for a complete list of missions and agencies we will hear and learn about.

**Tualatin Food Pantry** continues to need our regular contributions. Thank you to those who have brought in

**Living Savior Scholarship Fund**

Consider contributing to the Living Savior Scholarship Fund as part of your year-end charitable contributions. The purpose of the Scholarships is to encourage faith development and higher education in the youth of Living Savior Lutheran Church. Two $1,000 scholarships are awarded in the spring.

You can make a designated contribution directly to the scholarship fund by sending a church to the church and indicating that it is for the “Scholarship Fund” on the memo line. Questions? Please call Cathy D. at the church office.

**Would you like to have fun parenting?**

This six-session program is dedicated to making parenting and teaching fun and rewarding instead of stressful and chaotic. It is facilitated by Kate Kelleher and classes will be held at Living Savior, **February 7, 21, 28, March 7 & 14 — 6:30-8:30pm**. Registration forms are available in the Narthex. Cost: $30 per couple (includes the workbook). Contact Denice Hornberger for more information.
Dinners of Eight
January through March, 2019, returns by popular demand.

Our first of three dinners will be Sunday January 13th from 5:00 to 7:00 pm.
You may sign up on the “chef” poster in the narthex until January 3rd for the first dinner. Each month you are asked to sign up.

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 or contact Karen H. at the church office.

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 Childern” 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.

DINNER DATES: Sundays, January 13, February 10, March 10, 5:00-7:00 pm.
This is a month by month commitment only.

Please check the host column on the sign-up sheets in the narthex or contact Karen H. at the church office.

SUNDAYS, JANUARY 13, FEBRUARY 10, MARCH 10, 5:00-7:00 PM

Don’t miss this wonderful opportunity!

Come Check Us Out!
In addition to the regular library material,

1. We have a book shelf dedicated for books that the Book Club at Living Savior has read.
2. We have a book shelf of puzzles for you to check out.
3. We have reference material, Bible studies, children’s craft & learning idea books.
4. We have devotions that you may take home.
5. We have a shelf of puzzles for you to check out.
6. We have a shelf of puzzles for you to check out.
7. We have a shelf of puzzles for you to check out.

The library is located on the second floor, next to the Upper Room (arched entries). There is self-check out.

DID YOU KNOW?........
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Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”—Matthew 11:28–30

Stephen Ministry

CAREGIVERS IN OUR MIDST

The Stephen Ministers, in their continuing education program, listened to a panel of people from our church who are caregiving for family members. These people either provide care in their home, assist family members remain in their own home or support them in assisted living facilities. We are very thankful that people are willing to share their situations, their struggles and their joys of caregiving so that we might be better equipped to encourage and support someone in a similar situation.

We share this with you to bring awareness that there are many people in our congregation who are sacrificing a great deal to provide for a parent, spouse or loved one. Their lifestyle may have been altered dramatically to accommodate a loved one. They may be financially stretched to meet the needs of their loved one. They may be burned out a times in their caregiving responsibilities. Kind words, inquiry as to how they are doing and offering to assist them in various ways can be a great encouragement.

“We need to let our caregivers know we are here for them. Let us pray for and with them. Let us offer them the love, support and encouragement that they so desperately need. We despair when we burden those we love with our own concerns. Let us consider the burden is light.”—Karen H.

STRESS: Constraining forces or influences that can cause bodily or mental tension

We’ve all felt it and know what it is. But sometimes the stress level reaches a point where things begin to break. Don’t let your stress reach that point. Stephen Ministers are available to help you work through life’s difficulties and to give you a safe, confidential place to vent your troubles. For more information about Stephen Ministry, please contact:

Karen H.
Valorie W.
Andrew W.
Pastor Brandt
503-692-3490

Stephen Ministry Training Begins September, 2019

Training to become a Stephen Minister begins September, 2019. Contact the Stephen Ministry leaders for questions about the training or the ministry. God may have given you a heart for serving as a Stephen Minister and may be calling you to serve at Living Savior. Don’t miss his call!!

Bethesda Auxiliary

Because God showed us His great love by giving us our Savior, love and giving are often emphasized in December. Three events connected to the Auxiliary were motivated by giving and love.

An anonymous shopper watched for sales and bought items requested for Bethesda homes. They were delivered before Christmas.

The Auxiliary president collected mugs with a Christmas motif. [She only needed 200] The mugs were to be given to clients at church Christmas parties. Hot chocolate packets and holiday bread made another Christmas celebration possible at their home.

Some church members purchased a wreath from our selection to add to their home décor. This gave financial support for Auxiliary projects.

Thank you for your giving and love.

-Sylvia S.
Stewardship Update

2018 Year to Date Contributions, as of 12/16/18
are as follows:

General Fund:
- Received: $571,619
- Budget: $552,885
- Variance: $+18,734

Building Fund Contributions: $61,442
Thank you for your faithful giving!

We are excited to announce that we will soon provide the option of making offering contributions through electronic transfer. This program is provided through the Joyful Response program with the Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF). This program is entirely voluntarily, and gives members of the congregation the ability to make regular contributions without having to remember to write a check. Contributions can be scheduled to occur weekly, monthly, or even annually, and can be supplemented via a regular offering envelope.

- You would like to visit Shut Ins or know of someone we can visit?
 Volunteers are trained for this ministry. If you would like to be a part of this ministry or have questions, contact Peggy H. or Lola E. at the church office.

COMMUNITY WAREHOUSE

Community Warehouse is like a food bank – only they focus on household goods and furnishings. They are located in Tualatin at 8380 SW Nyberg Street. They are open M-F, 10am – 4pm and Sat-Sun, 10:30am – 4:00pm.

We will continue to collect smaller items that will fit in or next to the purple bag. You can either drop it off yourself or they will pick up large items at your house for $30.

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

Thank you.
Adam W.

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 or know of someone we can visit?
 Volunteers are trained for this ministry. If you would like to be a part of this ministry or have questions, contact Peggy H. or Lola E. at the church office.

Lutheran Hour Ministries

Christian Hope Though Mass Media in Egypt
$100,000 Paid
Lutheran Hour Ministries

Lutheran Hour Ministries (LHM) has over 60 years of experience proclaiming the Gospel via mass media in the Middle East. Fortunately, the political climate in Egypt provides a new opportunity to expand ministry in the region. Other parts of the Middle East, however, are experiencing great turmoil with war and, as a result, refugees, mainly women and children, are fleeing to safety. There is urgency to expand their proclamation of the Gospel in these areas, especially refugee camps in Lebanon, Jordan, and Turkey. LHM will reach families, refugees, and citizens of the region through a new television program broadcast in Cairo, Egypt. This new television broadcast has the potential to reach millions of people throughout the Middle East, refugees and citizens alike, with the message of faith and the true love of Christ and to be a strong Christian voice and witness through Arabic satellite television programming.

Thank You

Members of the Living Savior Staff wish to thank the members and friends of Living Savior for remembering them with your Christmas gifts.

Pastor Nathan Brandt, Pastor Phil Alexander, Denise Hornberger, Roberta Rinderknecht, Sandra M., Christina H., Maxine S., Louise S. and Judy C.

Oregon District Mite Offering

Mission Grant funded!
Mobile Dental Van Program with Medical Teams International. $6,600

For 14 years, a dental van clinic in Salem and the surrounding area has provided monthly Christian compassion to those in pain with dental issues including extensive decay and infection. These people do not have insurance or the means to pay for dental care. An interpreter is available, as 60% of the recipients are Latino. Counseling and Jesus’ love is shared with patients waiting for treatment. This grant provides for purchasing an autoclave for sterilizing the clinic’s instruments and equipment. Current regulations require a higher capacity autoclave than the former one being used; thus the clinic had not been in compliance with those regulations. Having the larger capacity autoclaves allows more patients to be treated and receive the knowledge of Jesus.

Since last month, another $39 has been donated into the large Mite Box in the Narthex. This amount will be forwarded to the District. The Oregon District will keep 75% of this amount for our District Mission Grants and 25% will be forwarded to LWML for national grants.

Bring your mite box to church and place it in the large Mite Box in the Narthex. This amount will be forwarded to the District. The Oregon District will keep 75% of this amount for our District Mission Grants and 25% will be forwarded to LWML for national grants.

The 2018-2020 Oregon District LWML Grant Goal: $72,562.50
The 2017-2019 LWML Mission Grant Goal: $2,075,000

BOOK CLUB

Lovers of books come together the second Saturday of the month, 10:00-11:30am in the Jericho Room, September-May. A lively discussion of the book occurs, fellowship is shared and we are refreshed with morning goodies, coffee or tea. Please consider joining the group when you can and invite a friend! There is no obligation to attend every month and no pressure to have the right answers because there are NO right answers. The following is a listing of the books that will be read and discussed.

November
January 12 Little Women by Louisa May Alcott
February 9 Border Child by Michel Stone
March 9 Albanian Escape: The True Story of U.S Army Nurses Behind Enemy Lines by Frederick Douglas
April 13 Love to Water My Soul (Dreamcatcher Series #2) by Agnes Jensen Mangerich
May 11

Thank You

Pastor Nathan Brandt, Pastor Phil Alexander, Denise Hornberger, Roberta Rinderknecht, Sandra M., Christina H., Maxine S., Louise S. and Judy C.

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