A Note from the Pastor...

February 2019

In the years that I have served as pastor here at Living Savior, there have been numerous people who have “retired” from their place of employment. It happens with pastors too. My father came to a point in his ministry when he retired. Most of the pastors I know that are older than me have retired. So, I would hope that my announcement at the Voters’ Meeting and in subsequent communications would not come as a shock.

What is to come? The Chairperson of the Call Committee has asked that I would speak to this issue. First, this is a process that is best approached in prayer. That’s what Peter did as they considered a replacement for Judas in the Book of Acts. He and they prayed. As I have said, the Spirit is eager to guide this process and the Spirit will make good come of everything that happens – even things that we may perceive to be a disaster. And the Apostle Paul writes: “Pray without ceasing.”

Secondly, pastoral vacancies are nothing new. This congregation has actually had some rather long pastorates. So we are perhaps not very familiar with the process. It hasn’t happened very often, but it has happened. Perhaps I can speak more to that process next month in my newsletter article. I have written it up already, but I don’t have that much space in the newsletter. : ( )

Let me speak a Voters’ Assembly meeting that is being called this coming February 17. President Paul Linnemann will be here for that meeting. I will not – which is probably a good thing.

Because my pastorate here is of some length, the District President may recommend that the congregation would call an interim pastor. One of the goals being: “to put some space between me and the pastor who follows me.” An interim pastor is specifically trained in helping a congregation “get over” their previous pastor and “get on” with the life of the congregation. Interims are also a good idea when there has been conflict within a congregation because the Interim Pastor is trained to help them deal with those conflicts. Finally, an Interim Pastor can help a congregation identify its strengths and weaknesses which will help them determine the type of pastor they desire to call.

President Linnemann will be coming to the congregation asking if the congregation desires to call an Interim Pastor and he will more than likely recommend that the congregation does call an Interim Pastor who would come to serve upon my retirement. He will be drawing from a pool of Interim Pastors. Interims are typically set periods of time ranging from six months to two years or renewable annually.

President Linnemann might hold that forming the Call Committee at this point is “pre-mature” and that the congregation is not ready yet for this step with the notion that this should be directed by the Interim Pastor who is “trained” in the area. Keep in mind that this is precisely what happened with Pastors Schmidt and Schaeffer as they served as Interims here at Living Savior 17 years ago and that process ultimately yielded Pastor Brandt serving in your midst.

However, an Interim Pastor will complicate the process in that the Interim will need to get on that important step of arriving at the goals with the congregation. And that is that the new pastor who will eventually be called is not a part of that goal setting process. He misses out on that important step of arriving at the goals with the congregation. And therefore, he is in the dark as he arrives. It is true that all pastors are in the dark as they arrive. I believe that it takes no

Continued on page 2.
There is a lot of talk about change at Living Savior these days. Since Heidi retired in June of last year, a call committee has been meeting to find a person to complement and complete our staff. Now that Pastor Brandt has announced his retirement at the end of August, many people are concerned about the future of the congregation.

This is where it is helpful to understand the difference between the Church as the Body of Christ and the church as an organization made up of people who have committed to membership in that organization. Living Savior is a church made up of many members who confess a common doctrine and worship together on a regular basis. We are members of God’s family, baptized into His name who are committed to fellowship together and to share His love with our neighbors, our community and our world.

Did you learn this song about the Church? It goes like this:
The Church in a building,
The Church is not a building,
The Church is a people,
I am the Church,
You are the Church,
We are the Church together.
All of God’s people, all across the world,
Yes, we’re the Church together.

The good news is that the Church as the Body of Christ, is God’s plan for sharing the Good News of salvation through our Lord, Jesus Christ. We call a Shepherd (Pastor) to assist us as an organization, but the work of the Church is the work of the Holy Spirit. We are the agents God uses to speak the words and show His love to others so they, too, know Him as Savior and are strengthened in their faith.

Though we dislike change, there is more good news: God doesn’t change. From Genesis to Revelation, scripture gives us the security we need to know that God was in the beginning. He promises to be with us in all circumstances and He continues to be our God to the end of our days. Refer to the following passages:

Genesis 1:1
In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.
Psalm 102:27
...but you are the same, and your years have no end.
Isaiah 41:4
I, the Lord, the first, and with the last, I am He.

Malachi 3:6
Isaiah 41:10
Fear not, for I am with you;
Be not dismayed, for I am your God.
I will strengthen you, I will help you,
I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.
Isaiah 41:13
For I, the Lord, your God,
Hold your right hand;
it is I who say to you, “Fear not; I am the one who helps you.”
Hebrews 13:8
Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

A recent Epistle reading was 1 Corinthians 12:24-31 referring to the church being one body with many members, and each member has a function and is important to the well-being of the whole body. As members of Living Savior, we each are an important part of both the organization (Living Savior Evangelical Lutheran Church) and of the Body of Christ. We need each of us to take heart to the words of 1 Corinthians 12:24b-27:

But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, that there may be no division in the body, but that the members have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together. Now you are the body of Christ and individually member of it.

According to this chapter, we have each been given Spiritual gifts to be used to grow the Body of Christ. Everyone is important to let us be excited to see how God will be working in our congregation to bring the right people to continue our ministry to our neighbors, our community and our world.

February

February is a really fun month of the year for preschool with an emphasis on love. It brings Dad’s Breakfast, (children love to bring their dads to preschool to show them their work place); Valentine’s Day parties, (for an exchange of Valentines among the children); Red Day (we all wear red, of course), and Pajama Day (yes, teachers too!). Along with all this excitement, our Bible stories this month focus on Jesus’ love for us as we learn about miracles he performed and parables he told. We start with the wedding at Cana where he turned water into wine. Then hear about Jesus calming the storm when he was in a boat with his disciples. He also raised a little girl from the dead. Then we hear of the Good Samaritan who stopped to help someone in need.

Secular topics for February include community helpers and safety. In the Dramatic play area for the first two weeks of February, the children will be able to explore the world of construction. The child will put on their hard hats, strap on a tool belt and construct buildings with boxes and tubes and even eat at a food cart. Next, the area will morph from a construction site to a hospital, where the children will have the opportunity to work in a hospital as doctors and nurses, they will bandage hurt friends, give medicine and shots, and keep records.

It’s time to sign up for preschool for the 2019-2020 school year! Do you know of family or friends with a 3 or 4-year-old in need of a preschool? Child must be 3 or 4 before or on September 1, 2019 to enroll. Or Pre-k children must be turning 5 years old by December 31, 2019. Please obtain a registration form by printing it out from the church Web site: www.living-savior.org.

Please call Denice Hornberger, Preschool Director, at 503-692-3303 if you have questions.

Parents and Logic Parenting Classes

Preschool will be hosting the “Early Childhood Parenting Made Fun” (specifically for parents of children birth-six). Kate Kelleher from Kate’s Consulting for Kids will facilitate the 5-week classes. Classes will be held on Thursday evenings from 6:30-8:30pm on February 7, 21, 28, & March 7 & 14. Cost per couple is $30 (includes the book). Check out Kate’s website or Facebook: KateConsultingForKids.com. All church families interested in the class may register with Denice at: dhornberger@livingsavior-preschool.org.

In Christ,
Denice H. & Preschool Staff

Congregational President

CATHY D.

COMMENTS FROM THE JANUARY 3 VOTERS’ ASSEMBLY MEETING

We begin 2019 as what we have always been – The people of God, redeemed by Jesus Christ to worship and serve in this place. No one knows all that this year will hold but we do know this – God has led our congregation for 40 years through tough times and smooth times. We can trust Him to lead us now as we enter into this year of change.

If we’re honest, most of us are not surprised at Pastor Brandt’s retirement announcement. Like the rest of us, he has not been getting any younger. We have been privileged and blessed to have him and Charlotte in our midst for so many wonderful years. Let’s commit to praying for them as they enter a new phase of life together.

No one likes change. It is uncomfortable. We like things to be predictable and change is anything but predictable. HOWEVER, we serve a God who grows our faith in times of change and transition. The early Israelites did not like their time of transition from slavery in Egypt to freedom in the Promised Land. They spent a long time in the desert. They spent that time in the desert because they were afraid of what might be ahead of them. We can learn from their experience and move forward in faith.

As we transition from our comfortable leadership under Pastor Brandt to new people in our called staff positions we do not need to fear the future. Our God is the God of the past, the present and the future. He holds the future of Living Savior in His hands. He has been faithful in the past and He will be faithful as we walk with Him into our future. As the angel Gabriel said to Mary, “Fear Not”; as the angels said to the Shepherds in the fields outside of Bethlehem, “Fear Not”; as Jesus said to His disciples, “Do not be afraid”.

I would like to end my comments with a prayer from the Lutheran Hymn Book:

Lord God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet un trodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that Your hand is leading us, and Your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN

Living Savior 40th Anniversary – Continued!

On Sunday, February 3 between services, please join in the continuing celebration of Living Savior’s 40th anniversary in the Fellowship Hall. The early development of the congregation was presented October 28 last year to celebrate the 40th anniversary of Charter Sunday for the church – October 29, 1978. We will meet on February 3 to give you, as Paul Harvey calls it, “the rest of the story”. All are invited to attend. We especially encourage those who are newer to our congregation and want to learn about the history of our church. A light breakfast will be served while the presentations are being made.

Please plan for a prompt start at 9:45am as there is much information to be shared.

Kathy V.
MISSION AND SERVICE

-JOYCE R.

Journey of Discipleship

The journey continues with World Missions, Bethesda Sunday with the annual Auxiliary Membership Drive and Ministry opportuni-
ties presentation, Tualatin School House Pantry, and Family Promise organizations.

Opportunities for Sharing Jesus’ Love through Action — Suggestions from LWML Gospel Outreach.

• Take time to work through a difficult situation by writing down your blessings and turn it over to the Lord in prayer.
• Pack a Valentine care package for college students or military personnel.
• Volunteer at the local USO or campus ministry
• Send Valentine’s Day cards to anyone you know who could use a little extra encouragement.

Mission & Service Updates

The contributions from Living Savior in 2018:

Lutheran World Relief — "I am Safe" community center in West Mosul, which assists children to work through their trauma.

Habitat for Humanity-Willanette West — Supporting 14 families putting in their sweat equity toward home ownership.

Living Savior Scholarship Fund

The Living Savior Scholarship will be awarded in the spring of 2019. The purpose of the scholar-
ship is to encourage faith development and higher edu-
cation 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 two $1,000 scholarships to be used in pursuit of a baccalaureate or associate degree during the summer or fall of 2019.

Applications are available in the narthex and through the church office. The application must be accompanied by an essay on the subject of "What My Christian Faith Means to Me." The winning entries 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 scholar-
ship funds. You can make a designated contribution direct-
ly to the scholarship fund by sending a check to the church or putting it in the offering plate and indicating that it is for the "Scholarship Fund" on the face of the check.

Any questions? Please call Cathy D. at the church office. 503.692.9490

SCHOLARSHIP

BAPTISMS

December 23:
• Adeline E., infant daughter of Bryan & Heidi E. Her spon-
sors are Mitchel & Gayle G.
• William M, the father of Eric M., adult baptism.

January 19:
• Benjamin, infant son of Marissa White and Gabriel J. Her-
encia C., grandson of John and Marilese W.

January 11:
Edith R.  (Died 1/05/2019)

January 19:
Robert W.  (Died January 1/13/2019)

OFFICIAL ACTS OF

LSC

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.

February 9
Border Child
by Michel Stone

March 9
Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglas, An American Slave
by Frederick Douglas

April 13
Albanian Escape: The True Story of U.S. Army Nurses Behind Enemy Lines
by Agnes Jensen Mangerich

May 11
Love to Water My Soul (Dreamcatcher Series #2)
by Jane Kirkpatrick

June 8
Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglas, An American Slave
by Frederick Douglas

June 22
Albanian Escape: The True Story of U.S. Army Nurses Behind Enemy Lines
by Agnes Jensen Mangerich

Thursday, May 30
8:00am-11:00pm
Putnam Library
The church library is offering puzzles for lende-
ing. We use the honor system so please return a borrowed puzzle in a timely fashion so others may use them. If you have quality puzzles, no pieces missing, that you would like to share with others, place them in the plastic tub to the right of the puzzle shelf in the li-
brary.

PUZZLES!

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brary.

Come Check Us Out!

In addition to the regular library material,

DID YOU KNOW?........

• That we have a book shelf dedicated for books that the Book Club at Living Savior has read.
• That we have a book shelf of puzzles for you to check out.
• That we have reference material, Bible studies, chil-
dren’s craft & learning idea books.
• That we have devotions that you may take home and use for as long as needed.

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

Questions? Call Karen H. at the church office.

Saturday, February 16, 10:00am
Library
Living Savior Lutheran

Jane Kirkpatrick, award winning historical-fiction author,
will be speaking at Living Savior on

THE POWER OF PIONEERING WOMEN:
Historical, Contemporary and Personal

Saturday, June 1, 2019
1:30 pm
Fellowship Hall
Refreshments Served

Save the date!

Jane Kirkpatrick

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, 10:00am to share resources, encourage one an-
other and fill our spiritual cup. Please join us! Friends of Liv-
ing 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? Call Karen H. at the church office.

Saturday, February 16, 10:00am
Library
Living Savior Lutheran

SCHOLARSHIP FUND

-Paula & Milt

For the “Scholarship Fund” on the face of the check.

February 10:
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25 are encouraged to apply for two $1,000 scholarships to
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Saturday, February 16, 10:00am
Library
Living Savior Lutheran
**Dinners of Eight**

Dinners of Eight, January through March, 2019, returns by popular demand. Our second of three dinners will be Sunday February 10th, 5:00-7:00 pm. You may sign up on the "chef" poster in the narthex until February 3rd. Each month you are asked to sign up. 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 or contact Karen Hoppert, 503-694-8773 or kchoppert@comcast.net.

**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.

**DINNER DATES:** Sundays, February 10, March 10, 5:00-7:00 pm.

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

Full year contributions for 2018 were as follows:

General Fund:  
- Received: $602,432  
- Budget: $575,000  
- Variance: $+27,432

Building Fund Contributions: $82,952

Thank you for your faithful giving!

One of the highest priorities for the Stewardship Board, if not the highest, is the reduction in the mortgage debt. When the loans were consolidated following the rebuilding from the fire, the mortgage balance stood at ~$2.3 million. In the five years since we have made tremendous progress paying this balance down ahead of schedule. Had we only made our regularly scheduled payments the current balance would be ~$2.1 million. Due to consistent contributions to our Building Fund, and General Fund contributions that have exceeded our expenses, we have been able to pay down this balance well ahead of schedule. The current balance now stands at less than $1.2 million.

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 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.

Valentine Dinner

Due to many other fellowship events occurring (Dinners of Eight, Anniversary Celebration, etc.) the Valentine Dinner will not held this year. The Witness Board and Youth Board are looking into doing a different type of event either in June or September. Please be on the lookout for future announcements around that time.

Thank You from the Kriesel Family

Thank you to everyone at Living Savior for your prayers, cards, gifts and support during these past few months while their daughter was preparing for neurosurgery. We are so thankful that she is home and that the side effects from the procedure appear to be minimal. Continued prayers for a successful outcome (seizure freedom) are appreciated.

Lutheran Women in Mission

Oregon District Mite Offering — The 2018-2020 Oregon District LWML Grant Goal: $72,562.50

Since last month, another $25 has been donated into the large Mite Box in the narthex. This amount will be forwarded to the District. The Oregon District keeps 75% of this amount for our District Mission Grants and 25% is forwarded to LWML for national grants. Bring your mite box to church and place it in the large mite box on the shelf by the exit doors and take a new one.

Featured this month: Lutheran for Life Post-Abortion Crisis Hotline Expansion. $4,000. This grant will help expand the proclamation of forgiveness available by grace through faith alone to include professional counseling with other Lutherans and individuals in the Oregon District who have participated in abortion decision. This is accomplished through the Lutheran for Life Word of Hope, a nationwide, professionally staffed, post-abortion crisis hotline this is presently only available part time. This grant will make Word of Hope a full time ministry within the Oregon District. This connection with individuals will provide an opportunity to learn of, and receive, God’s grace and the message of salvation through faith in Christ.

SR. YOUTH

Sr. Youth teens and parents are invited on Tuesday, February 5, to come on over to Rolling Hills/NW Children’s Outreach program from the hours of 6:30pm till 8 pm. This event is open to Jr. Youth as well!

It is also the month for the Annual Sr. Youth Winter Retreat! Feb. 16-18! This year we are going back up to the mountain—the Lodges at Salmon River Meadows, just outside Government Camp! We’ll have Coho Lodge to ourselves again, which has 7 sleeping rooms with bunk beds, living room with gas fireplace, and rec room in the basement (ping pong, foos ball, pool, air hockey). Meals are catered and served in the main lodge. Food allergies should be told to chef sooner than later so he can accommodate all. Don’t forget about the private, lighted tubing hill! Don’t miss this awesome event which is a great time of fellowship, study, and relaxation. The cost is $60 per student. Friends are more than welcome! Forms will be handed out via email to parents. Drop off/meet at the church on Saturday morning at 11:00am and pick up/dropping off at church Monday afternoon at 2:00pm. Any questions, please feel free to call/text/email me. So excited! See you there!

-Sr. Youth

See’s Valentine candy will be available soon. An order form to get exactly what you want can be found on the Scrip counter. Once the candy arrives (prior to Valentine’s Day), we will carry “some” items at the Scrip table but they will be limited since we don’t want to have leftovers. Take a look and get your order in ahead of time for all your family, friends or whoever you want to share the love with candy so you don’t miss out.

NEW VENDOR: The Happy Teen ☆☆☆ This is a great card for someone—especially a teen—to give them options. Check out vendors this card applies to at the Scrip table in the narthex. Don’t stop buying Scrip just because the holidays are over. You can still use it for your regular grocery shopping and entertainment fun.

Any questions? Just email Holly W. at the church office.