A Note from the Pastor...

March 2019

Greetings to all. Last month I wrote an article addressing the options of either an Intentional Interim or a Vacancy Pastor before the congregation. At the Voters’ Assembly on February 17, following a presentation by the District President, the congregation voted to not participate in the Intentional Interim Ministry at this time and that would mean that at some point they will be asking for the help of a Vacancy Pastor.

It is my intent to give you a picture of what the call process would look like and after writing this, I can see that there is probably going to be yet a third or even fourth installment of this ongoing article. That’s OK – this is a good place to do this.

The call process involves several stages. First of all, the congregation must follow the steps as outlined in the Constitution and By-Laws of the congregation. That documents gives the parameters to the actions taken.

1. When a pastoral vacancy occurs, the Spiritual Life Board serves as the Call Committee, selecting a Call Committee Chairperson from their midst. The Spiritual Life Board can ask additional congregational members to also serve on the Call Committee to help them get a well-rounded perspective of the congregation’s needs.

2. The Circuit Visitor (Pastor Jeff Shearier) and District President (Dr. Paul Linnemann) need to be notified.

3. The congregation enters into an information collecting stage and a thorough job needs to be done here because it will benefit the process down the road. The demographics of the congregation and the community should be collected including the ages, trends, history, financial information, debt load and mission opportunities that lie before the congregation. It might also be helpful to seek to identify the various strengths and challenges before the congregation at this present time.

4. At an announced time, all the people of the congregation will be given the opportunity to submit names as candidates to be considered for the call. The window for this should probably be at least a month so that it can be properly communicated. There are some restrictions. The Candidates must be clergy on the roster of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and in good standing.

How would the congregation know such people? Perhaps in your travels or among your relatives you might know a pastor that is currently serving in a congregation in another location. Perhaps you have heard this person preach or watched him in action and you sense that this person might serve well in the midst of this congregation.

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5. All of these collected names will in turn be submitted to the District President (President Paul Linnemann) of the Northwest District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS). The President will then help the congregation to ensure that the names submitted are eligible and suitable for the congregation—a task he does not take lightly. Upon request, the District President will also supply the congregation with a list of eligible names beyond the names that the congregation has submitted that he believes would be a “good fit” for the congregation. This is probably going to be the source of most of the names that come before the congregation. These are pastors who are seeking a call. There are pastors who are not looking for a call, and yet when they see the mission and ministry opportunities at Living Savior might well say, “That would be a good fit for me.”

March

6 Ash Wednesday
13, 20, 27 Lenten Soup Supper and Worship
10 Daylight Savings Time begins
17 Preschool Sunday
25-29 Spring Break

April

7-14 Family Promise at Living Savior
14 Palm Sunday
18 Maundy Thursday Worship
19 Good Friday Worship
21 Easter Sunday

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!
continued from page 1.

At this point it is good to say something that may help in understanding this process. Congregations of the LCMS are not autonomous in that they can do anything they want to do, but they are self-governing. The role of the District President is advisory, but he also has the best interests of the congregation at heart. As a congregation we have willingly and gladly submitted to this relationship (the word “synod” means walking together). Our Constitution and By-Laws bind us to call clergy that are rostered and in good standing. There is some comfort in this. These pastors will be well-trained at one of our seminaries. They will have done at least 12 months of vicarage under the supervision of a pastor in a congregational setting. They will come with an understanding of the teachings of our church body and the spiritual needs of the people whom they serve. Those that come from the seminary will come with limited experience and yet no doubt with great zeal, while those who come from an existing congregation will have the experience of the place and or places where they have served— and they can also have great zeal, but sometimes zeal is tempered by experience. Does that make sense?

There might be any number of reasons why a District President would not let a name stand on the call list: including but not limited to: health reasons, family limitations, disciplinary reasons or perhaps the individual has just taken a call to another congregation. Just so you know, there are about 5,000 active pastors in our church body, and I think our seminaries will be offering a total of 90 men to serve as pastors in the coming year. But of course, those numbers are offset by the number of pastors who pass away or are retiring—right? : )

I see that I have been too wordy, at the same time as I read through this there isn’t much I want to cut out. I know that this seems like a tedious task and it is, but it is not impossible. Allow me to pick up next month with what happens after the offering is made.

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Hang in there! Remember that while pastor vacancies occur, congregations are never really vacant for the Lord Jesus has promised to be with His people always. Pray! Right now pray for the leaders of the congregation. They are under additional stress. Pray for the process and for the well-being of your congregation. Strive to maintain a spirit of harmony. Put the best construction on everything. Live peaceably with one another. Be kind, gracious and tender-hearted with one another. This is the yearning of the Holy Spirit among us.

Pastor Brandt

PS: We burn Palm Leaves on March 3. Ash Wednesday is March 6. Pancakes will be served on Ash Wednesday. We will be using the Holden Service in the Wednesdays that follow. It is a great and treasured time of year. We will gather under the leadership of our pastor in a time of contemplation and prayer at the mercy seat. We will ask for the blessing of the Lord on our congregation. We will be offering a total of 90 men to serve as pastors in the coming year. But of course, those numbers are offset by the number of pastors who pass away or are retiring—right? : )

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Have you seen….. ???

We are looking for several books that were loaned to the Reformation exhibit. There are 10-11 volumes - bibles in German (possibly one in Latin), hymnals, and a Catechism.

The books belonged to Dr. E.P. Weber who was President of Concordia College (now University) for 25 years. They have significant sentimental value and memories for the family.

Several searches of the church closets have been conducted. So far these have not uncovered any trace of the books. If any one in the congregation has an idea where the books may have gone, please don’t hesitate to contact us directly or the church office.

Dave Kohl has the titles of these lost volumes. One of them, The Jerusalem Bible c. 1965, had a mother-of-pearl book cover, so it would be easy to recognize.

If you have any information about these books, please let the church office know.

March Devotion — Judy C.

What about Lent?

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin! Psalm 51:1-2

The one fact you must know

Lenten Reflections says, “Life is a continuing process of the death of the old and the familiar and being reborn again into a new hope, a new trust, and a new love. And the death and resurrection of Jesus therefore is not just an historical event that took place a long time ago, but an inner event that takes place in our own heart when we are willing to be attentive to it.”

A brochure that shares some facts about Lent follows the following:

Did you know that . . .

1. The original period of Lent was 40 hours? It was spent in fasting to commemorate the suffering of Christ. Then it became 30 days, then 36, and finally, in the reign of Charlemagne, about 800 AD, 40 days, not including Sundays.
2. The 40 days of Lent correspond to Christ’s 40 days in the wilderness.
3. The date of Lent is determined by the date of Easter? The Council of Nicaea determined in 325AD that Easter would be observed on the first Sunday following the 14th day of the Paschal Moon.
4. The earliest that Lent can begin is February 5? That happened last in 1818. Although it began on February 6 in 2008.
5. The latest Lent can start is March 10? It won’t be that late again until the year 2038.
6. Lent comes from the old English word for spring— “Lenent”?
7. The wearing of sackcloth and ashes is a custom going back to Old Testament times? Many Christians observe the custom on Ash Wednesday, using the ashes of the previous year’s burned Palm Sunday palms. [A tradition which Living Savior has followed for many years.]
8. The ay before Ash Wednesday, Shrove Tuesday, is celebrat ed in many parts of the world with feasting? The French call it Mardi Gras, the Germans call it Fasching. The feasting comes from the custom of using up household fats prior to the 40 days of Lenten fasting when no fat is to be used.

March 6 begins the Lenten season for 2019. We will be on the road first to the cross at Calvary which is followed by the joyous celebration of the resurrection of our Lord, which guarantees our bodily resurrection. What comfort that we will one day be with Him. What encouragement that this life will pass and we will live for eternity in the presence of God, where there is no paid or sorrow, no more death and disease, no tears and fears.

It is not too late. If you have not yet set aside a time to focus on your life in the context of your faith, make a commitment now to do that. Begin by reading the rest of Psalm 51.

Easter is much more meaningful when we can truly celebrate the wonder of resurrected life — Christ’s and our own!
This winter has been relatively mild, but our February was cold, so the flowers have been confused and don’t know whether to bloom or not. As we start the month of March, we are counting on the flowers blooming, the birds chirping, and the days growing longer.

Secular topics this month include water, air, and wind. Dramatic play this month includes a continuation of blooming, the birds chirping, and the days growing longer.

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

Right after March’s chapel time (March 5 & 6) the Preschool will be holding our spring fundraiser the: HOOP-A-THON. Parents/Preschoolers are sponsoring sponsors who make pledges to each child. The day of the event we “hoop it up” and all become basketball stars! The spectators (parents) will fill the fellowship hall; our stars (preschoolers) are pumped up and have lots of fun shooting baskets.

As spring approaches, we give thanks for our children and their growth this year at preschool, Denice Hornberger and the Preschool Staff
MISSION AND SERVICE

- SHARI R.

Military Ministry: Celebrating the 100th Anniversary of The American Legion
The Legion was founded after the end of WW1. During the first caucus in Paris March 15-17, 1919.
On May 8, 1919 in St Louis the American Legion was officially founded. The Legions love of country and devotion to patriotic ideals have led them to build national pride, advance patriotism, promote US citizenship, educate young people, promote the US Constitution and counter threats of freedom, democracy and law & order which the founders had pledged their lives to defend.

National Quilt Day March 16
Quilters for 70 years have put their faith in action and make quilts for people in need around the world. These gifts of love make life brighter, softer and a bit more comfortable for our neighbors around the world struggling with displacement, chronic poverty, illness, natural disaster & conflict. 6

Poison Prevention Week March 17-23, 2019 Poison Prevention Help Line 1-800-222-1222
More than 90 percent of the time, poisonings happen in people’s homes. The majority of these poisonings occur in the kitchen, bathroom and bedroom. Teach your family to never touch or put anything in their mouths unless they know what it is.
- Medicines: Keep in the original containers, properly labeled and stored appropriately.
- Carbon Monoxide: Have a working detector in your home. Place them near the bedroom and close to the furnaces.
- Household products: Keep in original containers. Do not use food containers for storage.
- Chemicals: Keep antifreeze and all chemicals in original containers.
- School and Art Supplies: Read directions. Do not eat or drink while using. Wash hands, equipment and work space. Keep products in original containers.
- Food: Wash hands and preparation area. Store food properly at proper temperatures. Do not leave food out at above 40 degrees F (5 degrees C). Use clean cooking and serving utensils.
- Animals/Insects: Know what poisonous snakes are in your area. Check insect repellent labels, most contain DEET and large quantities can be poisonous.
- Plants, mushrooms and berries: Be sure everyone can identify poisonous mushrooms and plants. With Poison Ivy remember leaves of 3, let it be.

Red Cross Blood Drive: Saturday March 30, 2019

HomeWord Bound Friday April 5th, 6-9pm at the Oregon Zoo.

Community Partners for Affordable Housing 20th Annual fund raiser with dinner, silent auction and local authors available for book signing. Featured Author: Willy Vlautin; Don’t Skip Out on Me. Contact Doug P., Pat B., or Shari R. at the church office for tickets.

Ministry Fair: Investigate all the activities of the church and share your talents in our ministry

Sharing Jesus’ Love through Action
Rather than “giving up something ‘for Lent, “take up something”. Join in making or sharing a blanket with persons in Hospice, Long Term Care Facilities, or other agencies that an use them. Check in with new members and keep them informed and welcome to the Lenten activities and Holy Week schedule.

Building Support Group at Living Savior
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 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? Call Karen H. at the church office.
Saturday, March 17, 10:00am Library
Living Savior Lutheran

Poison Prevention Help Line 1-800-222-1222

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Save the date!
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

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.

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

Puzzles!
The church library is offering puzzles for lending. 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 library.

DI Did you know?........

in addition to the regular library materials, 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, children’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.

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Dinners of Eight

Our last of three dinners will be Sunday March 10, 5:00-7:00 pm. You may sign up on the "chef" poster in the narthex until March 3. 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 call the church.

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 DATE: Sunday, March 10, 5:00-7:00pm.

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

Choir Concert

Concordia Choir

Moorehead, Minnesota

March 7, 7:30pm

Trinity Episcopal Cathedral
147 NW 19th Ave., Portland 97209
Call 800-838-3006 or visit Brownpapertickets.com/event/4017673

Rene Clausen conducts this world-renowned choir. Past performances include Carnegie Hall and Kennedy Center. Hear a variety of a cappella works, including a set of Russian liturgical music.

We welcome Monona J., a friend and neighbor of Cheryl A. Monona joined Living Savior on Sunday, February 3, 2019.

THE FACTS ABOUT ABUSE

The statistics are staggering when it comes to abuse issues. Most abuse goes unreported. Think about that as you read these statistics:

1. In 3 women experience at least one physical assault by a partner/former partner in adulthood.
2. 90-95% of domestic violence victims are women.
3. 75% of domestic violence victims who are killed are murdered during the separation.
4. Domestic violence is the single most common source of injury to women, more common than auto accidents, muggings and rape by a stranger combined.
5. In 4 women seeking health care from a family doctor report having been physically assaulted by their partners within the last year.
6. 70% of men who batter women also batter their children, making the presence of spouse abuse the single most identifiable risk factor for predicting child abuse.
7. Approximately half of victims who were murdered or almost murdered underestimated the risk that their perpetrator was capable of killing her.
8. Boys who witness domestic violence are twice as likely to abuse their own partners and children when they become adults.

Abuse Recovery Ministry Services

Stephen Ministers were privileged to have Stacey & Jerry Womack share with us their A.R.M.S. ministry that has existed in the Portland metro area since 1999 to bring healing and transformation, from a faith perspective, to those impacted by domestic violence and controlling relationships.

They offer the following classes in various locations in the metro area:

Her Journey classes to assist women to heal from current or past abusive or controlling relationships. (fee, paid for by donations)

Mankind is a faith-based program committed to helping men who have used abusive and controlling behaviors.

Virtue is a program committed to helping women who have displayed abusive or controlling behaviors and who may also be victims of abuse.

Take, fees, homework and regular attendance are required.

If you or you know of someone who might benefit from any of these programs, contact A.R.M.S:

503-846-9284 or 866-262-9284

Email: info@armsonline.org

Website: armsonline.org

P.O. Box 663, Hillsboro, OR 97123

If you are looking for a worthwhile ministry to contribute to, $75 sponsors a woman to complete a 15 week Her Journey class.

Stephen Ministry Training Begins September, 2019

Training to become a Stephen Minister begins September 5th, 2019. Contact the Stephen Ministry leaders for questions about the training or the ministry. They can be reached by calling the church office.

Karen H. Andrew W.
Valorie W. Pastor Brandt

DCE Call Committee

Pastor Brandt will begin a new adult instruction class on Sunday, March 10 during the education hour (9:45 to 10:45am). It is for those who desire to learn more about the Christian faith and Lutheran tradition.

Materials will be provided. Contact the church office if you have questions.

Advocates for Children (AFC) offers a variety of services to help parents with the challenge of controlling their children. They offer services to children who have experienced abuse and neglect, and to those who are at risk of abuse or neglect. They also offer services to parents who are struggling with the challenges of parenthood. AFC provides support and guidance to help parents develop skills and strategies to improve their relationships with their children. They work with families to develop individualized plans that meet the unique needs of each family. AFC also provides training and resources to other organizations, such as schools and community agencies, to help them support children and families affected by abuse and neglect.

AFC provides services to children and families throughout Oregon. They have offices in Portland, Eugene, Salem, and Seattle. They also offer services to families through their mobile units, which travel to various locations throughout the state. AFC is a non-profit organization that is supported by grants and donations. They rely on the support of the community to continue their important work.
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.

- Meeting, March 7, 12:00 pm in the Library
- 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 or Lola at the church.

Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekend

May 31—June 2, 2019
Renton, Washington

For more information call Carl & Dallas Presley, 206-522-6849 or email them at mennorthwest@gmail.com.
Or call Brent & Sandy B., at the church.
Or visit www.GodLovesMarriage.org

Brochures are available in the brochure rack.

Blood Drive

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

Walk-ins are also appreciated.

Building Fund Contributions: $6,765

Thank you for your faithful giving!

On behalf of the Stewardship Board, I am pleased to announce that we now have the option of electronic giving. This program is provided through the Joyful Response program with the Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF). This program is entirely voluntary, 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 with a personal check as is presently done. There is no requirement to use this method of giving, and if you prefer to continue to give via your traditional means, you are more than welcome to continue to do so.

To participate in this program you will need to fill out a form and attach a voided check. The forms will be made available in the church office, or contact me directly and I can make one available to you via email. To ensure the security of your bank account information, please submit your form to me or Roberta in the office.

If you have questions, please call me at the church office.

Thank you.

Adam W.

News from Bethesda Auxiliary

Bethesda Sunday will be held on March 3. Pastor Bohren, pastoral advisor will preach at both services and will share information about Bethesda during the Bible class hour. Terry Putnam, president of the Oregon Unit of the Auxiliary will also be here with the traveling gift table which provides an opportunity to purchase items and support the Auxiliary at the same time. You may donate items to add to the tables. Baked goods are always appreciated.

On March 3 and March 10, a form to renew your membership or become a new member will be with the Parish Notes. A monetary donation of $10 or more will support the eight projects chosen by the board of governors for 2019-2020. The second part of the form is for ministry opportunities with the 18 people with developmental disabilities living in four homes near Living Savior. The goal is to have time to get to know the residents by celebrating a birthday, doing a craft, sharing a snack, enjoying music together, playing a game and having a short devotion to share the love of Jesus with the residents and their care givers.

I will be in the Narthex after both services on both Sundays to receive your form and donation.

-June 7

Ministry Opportunities

But doers of the Word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves... James 1:22
...but a doer that acts, he shall be blessed in his doing. James 1:25b

As believers in our Savior Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit gives us the desire to serve others; being Jesus’ hands and feet here on earth. The Auxiliary’s ministry gives opportunities to serve and build relationships with those who are often overlooked and underserved.

We pray that each member of the congregation will fill out one of Bethesda Auxiliary Ministry Opportunity forms and return it with a donation made out to “Bethesda Auxiliary.”