A Note from the Pastor...

Now Thank We All Our God

1. Now thank we all our God
With hearts and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things has done,
In whom His world rejoices;
Who from our mothers’ arms
Has blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love
And still is ours today.

2. Oh, may this bounteous God
Through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts
And blessed peace to cheer us
And keep us in His grace
And guide us when perplexed
And free us from all ills
In this world and the next!

3. All praise and thanks to God
The Father now be given,
The Son, and Him who reigns
With them in highest heaven,
The one eternal God,
Whom earth and heav’n adore;
For thus it was, is now,
And shall be evermore.

The words of the hymn above give voice to my heart and mind among you. I pray that you might read them again (even aloud) from that perspective. Pastor Martin Rinckart wrote this hymn while serving a Lutheran congregation in Eilenburg, Germany in the height of the 30 Years War and yet another round of the Black Plague, though my circumstances are perplexed and burdened by the ills of life (in some respects, even retirement could be viewed as one of the ‘ills’ of life), we have a God who has blessed on our way in the past – even from our mother’s arms, with countless gifts of love (spelled out so vividly in the suffering and death and resurrection of Jesus). Therefore, in the days to come, He will guide and provide, as He has in the past. Though there are an emotional sadness that goes hand in hand with this change for us (as a family) and for you – the promises of God endow us with a joy and blessed peace to cheer us and keep us in His grace. Thank you for loving us and caring for us and may the Lord bless you and keep you in this world and the next.

For the better part of 16 years I have been writing a monthly newsletter article for the Living Logos of this congregation. It has been an opportunity to communicate, to encourage, to remind, to promote, to inform, and to reflect while serving as the Pastor of this congregation. Circumstances (this being the last of these articles) dictate that this article is reflective in nature.

I thank God for you! I thank you for your loving support of me and my family!

Let it be noted that the hymn verse also stands as a prayer that points to the days ahead. Our God is not only a God of wondrous things done in the past, but a God of the present and a God of the future. Though there are times when we are perplexed and burdened by the ills of life (in some respects, even retirement could be viewed as one of the ‘ills’ of life), we have a God who has blessed on our way in the past – even from our mother’s arms, with countless gifts of love (spelled out so vividly in the suffering and death and resurrection of Jesus). Therefore, in the days to come, He will guide and provide, as He has in the past. Though there are an emotional sadness that goes hand in hand with this change for us (as a family) and for you – the promises of God endow us with a joy and blessed peace to cheer us and keep us in His grace. Thank you for loving us and caring for us and may the Lord bless you and keep you in this world and the next.

Pastor Brandt
**Pastoral Call Committee**

By the time of this month’s Living Logos printing, the Pastoral Call Committee (PCC) will have interviewed four well qualified ministers to fill our anticipated pastoral vacancy. The individuals have been refreshingly competent, talented and receptive. One candidate has withdrawn his name from consideration, but plans are now being made for a second round of interviews with the others. These will be personal interviews with our committee and take place here at Living Savior. We will be inviting the three candidates individually to come with their wives and will plan an opportunity for the membership to meet them. Ultimately, those candidates deemed by the committee to be a good fit for us will be presented to the congregation at a voters’ assembly and a call recipient will be selected. No dates have been set as yet but expect to be hearing more from the PCC in the next month. We request your prayers for the Holy Spirit to guide the deliberations of the PCC and for the direction, wisdom and patience that we need. Pray also for the candidates and their families as they travel and as they consider the changes that this call will make in their lives. -Jon H.

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**Prayer Doves**

Have you noticed the origami prayer doves on display in the Narthex?

We are encouraging members and friends of Living Savior to write out prayer requests regarding the search for our new Pastor. The paper squares are available on the reception counter along with a box where you may deposit completed squares. Several volunteers then turn the colorful squares into beautiful doves which will continue to be displayed for as long as the call processes take. Once a Pastor has accepted the call to minister to our congregation, more prayers will be needed as the search for additional staff (i.e. Director of Christian Education and/or Family Life Minister) is on our agenda.

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**Amazing Grays**

The Amazing Grays are starting a new program in the Fall. We will be studying the history of our neighboring communities. Several locale historians are scheduled to speak. These are the people with the interesting stories and back stories that only come out here.

- **September 5:** We will discuss the City of Sherwood. Here special emphases is on St. Paul Lutheran Church, the oldest LCMS Church in the district and how this Church relates to Living Savior of today.
- **October 3:** We hear from Wilsonville. What do you know about the Boone family and Boones Ferry? What did log booms and the Willamette River do for Wilsonville?
- **November 7:** The history of Tualatin. What put Tualatin on our map for today?

These will be a very interesting topics. You do not want to miss them. See you in September!

- Dave C.

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**August Devotion**

May all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you!

Psalm 70:4

Have you ever noticed that you see what you expect to see or want to see? We often glance at something written and don’t really stop to really see the words until the occasion rises to examine it more closely.

For example, I have walked past a sign at the entrance to our neighborhood, Merryfield, dozens of times but one day recently I looked carefully at it and noticed that it was spelled Maryfield. How had I not noticed that before? Because I had glanced at it and assumed it was spelled correctly.

Another example is my fitbit. With the flick of my wrist I can see the time, the date, and the steps I’ve taken so far that day. But I usually only notice the thing I’m interested in that if the face is illuminated. If I’m interested in the time, that is all I notice. The other two pieces of information are totally ignored — I don’t even see them (and they are very close together). I only see what I am looking for. Or if I’m interested in the date, that is all I see. Sometimes I have to shake my wrist twice in a row to see two items because I didn’t think to notice both at the same time.

And sometimes I only see what I am looking for in the Bible. My morning devotions can occasionally be an item to check off on my daily “to do” list. I read the assigned passages and read the commentary which ends with a prayer. Done. Move on to the next one. (I receive a couple in my email inbox each morning, plus preparing to lead class.) I may miss the truth or the extra blessing that God has in store for me if I don’t take the time to delve into God's Word, to meditate upon it and to see, really see, God.

Seeing involves seeking. The Bible is full of passages which encourage us to seek the Lord.

In 1 Chronicles 28:9 David encouraged his son:

_and you, Solomon my son, know the God of your father and serve him with a whole heart and with a willing mind, for the Lord searches all hearts_ and understands every plan and thought. If you seek him, he will be found by you. (Of course he ends the thought with a warning: but if you forsake him, he will case you off forever.)

Psalm 119:10 ~

**With my whole heart I seek you;**

Let me not wander from your commandments!

Isaiah 55:6 ~

**Seek the Lord while he may be found; call upon him while he is near.**

What does seeking look like? It means we have a time set aside to “read, learn and inwardly digest” God’s Word to us on a regular basis. This might mean setting the alarm to wake up a little earlier in the morning. (I call this “mind over mattress.”)

Another way to focus on scripture is to keep a journal. Write out a verse and explore the thoughts that come from those words. Or try rewriting a verse in contemporary language. Or even try writing your own Psalm, drawing on your experience of seeking and seeing God.

Or we may need to sing hymns. But most important is spending time in prayer. This is a “two-way communication with our Father.” Both Matthew 7:7 and Luke 11:9 record the encouragement to ask, seek and knock with the promise: ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock and it will be opened to you. The acronym ACTS is helpful when praying:

**A = Adoration**

**C = Confession**

**T = Thanksgiving**

**S = Supplication**

As we pray and meditate on God’s Word and seek Him with our whole heart, we see Him as our Father who loves us, as our Savior who forgives us and as our Spirit who calls, enlightens and sanctifies us. We see God because we are looking for Him. We rejoice and are glad!

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**August Devotion**

-May all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you!-

-JUDY C.
Calendar

For Pastor Brandt
August 18, 2019
3:30pm Social Hour — Outside
   drinks, music, snacks
5:00pm Program — Sanctuary
   Prayer, Praise, Thanksgiving
6:00pm Dinner — Fellowship Hall

RSVP REQUESTED BY AUGUST 4
to brandtretirement@gmail.com

Do you have any photos, memories, or well-wishes that you would like to share with Pastor and Charlotte?
Please submit them to brandtretirement@gmail.com or to the designated box in the narthex.

Contact the office if you would like to help with this event.

The River of Life ~ Family Vacation Bible School
July 15-17

Thank you to all who participated in making this a truly great VBS. From meals, to worship and singing, to crafts, skits and recreation, those attending were truly blessed. Thank you especially to Pastor and Charlotte for their leadership in the planning and overseeing of this annual event.

Stewardship Update

Contributions through July 22, 2019 are as follows:

General Fund:
Received: $ 321,671
Budget: $ 326,250
Variance: $ -4,580

Building Fund Contributions: $28,504

Thank you for your faithful giving!

- Tired of writing checks? Interested in giving electronically? Please pick up a form to enroll in Joyful Response, available on the counter outside of the church office.

- Reducing the mortgage balance continues to be a top priority for the Stewardship Committee. While LCEF recently implemented a small increase to our interest rate in their annual adjustment period, we continue to pay more than the required minimum payment each month. In addition to this steady pace of prepayments, we make additional reductions to the balance throughout the year via the Building Fund and from Scrip profits. Through the congregation’s discipline, it has been able to reduce the mortgage balance outstanding from over $2.2 million to less than $1.1 million in the last five years.

If you have questions, please contact the church office.

Thank you.

Adam W.
Prison Fellowship Ministry: Angel Tree
The time has come to start making contacts and organize the Christmas shopping list for the children we will be supporting. We need your help. If you are interested in getting involved please contact Shari R. or Kathy V. at the church office.

Community Warehouse
Volunteer opportunity: Help create comfortable homes for our neighbors in need. They are seeking energetic, friendly volunteers to help collect and redistribute donated household goods and furnishings. Nearly 8,000 people every year are helped. They have weekday and weekend shifts available for Warehouse Ambassadors and Estate Store ambassadors. Contact communitywarehouse.org/volunteer or email volunteer@communitywarehouse.org to get started.
Check out the information sheet posted on the Fellowship Hall bulletin board.

Tualatin School House Pantry
Total contribution of $161. To date: $654.
Current needs: canned fruit (not applesauce); canned corn, canned mixed vegetables, canned pasta meals such as Spaghetti O’s, ravioli’s and the like. They always need extra paper grocery bags.

Lutheran Community Services Northwest
Annual Luncheon is Sunday October 20, at 12:30 at the downtown Marriott Hotel. If you’re interested in attending, please contact Shari R. and we will facilitate an invitation for participation and seating at Living Savior’s table.

Camp Lutherwood Harvest Festival is Sunday, September 29. Please contact Shari if you are interested in participating.

Red Cross Blood Drive: Saturday, August 31.

Sharing Jesus’ Love through Action (LWML)
Choose a Christian music CD to reflect the scripture texts on which the song is based. Collect school supplies and personal items. Host a back-to-school party for children which are homeless or in foster care. Organize a ladies night out to foster fellowship and support.

Military Ministry - A Quilt of Valor was awarded to Micah D. Brandt with our deepest appreciation for sacrifice and service to this country. The Quilts of Valor mission is to cover service members and veterans touched by war with a comforting and healing quilt. If you wish to nominate a recipient for a Quilt of Valor please contact me and I will be glad to facilitate this tangible recognition for their sacrifice and service to this country.

FAMILY PROMISE
On the week of July 21-28, Living Savior opened our doors to the homeless in our community. Thank you to those who volunteered to support these individuals and families.
21 New Mission Grants were selected at the recent convention in Mobile, Alabama. The 2019-2021 Grant Goal is $2,100,000. This month we feature Water and the Word for Rural Schools in Kenya Evangelical Lutheran Church, Kenya $80,000

In 2008, a man from Nebraska traveling in East Africa saw the need for clean water and sought a way to help. Through contact with a social worker and educator in Nakuru, Kenya, he devised a system of installing water harvesting equipment (rain gutters and tanks), filters, hand washing stations and clean water storage to be installed in schools in Kenya. In 2016, members of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod from Nebraska took over the management of the project. They visit Kenya every year, traveling to schools assessing their water needs. Teams from the United States install rain gutters and tanks for storage. Hand washing stations and clean water “buckets” are placed in every classroom. They teach personal hygiene, handwashing and the importance of drinking only clean water. WASH clubs, made up of students and staff, are formed to be responsible for the clean water program. The grant will help the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenya (ELCK) to extend their ministry of Word and Sacrament by expanding the clean water project for their schools and orphanages.

Women's Retreat
September 20-22
Christian Life Retreat — “Beautiful Feet”
at Macleay Christian Retreat Center (Salem)
Register now.
Forms are available at LWMLOR.org or in the church Narthex.
Early discounted registration ends August 31.

Late Service
In the near future, with the impending retirement of four long-serving ushers, our church will have a need for ushers during the late service. Beginning the first Sunday of October, we will have only four ushers at the late service, so we hope you will prayerfully consider serving our church in this capacity. Please contact the church office for more information.

Ushers Needed

Does Summertime 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 and confidential. It will make a difference in your life! Contact the church or a Stephen Leader 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 5, 2019. 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:
Karen H.
Valorie W.
Andrew W.
Pastor Alexander

I want to thank all of you who have supported my family and me with prayers, words of condolence, hugs, cards, and offers of help in our time of grief. We are blessed by your love and concern.

In Christ,
Stephanie S. and family

With Sincere Sympathy
To the family of Bert A, who died June 27, 2019. His funeral service was July 13.

And to the family of Mary L, who died July 18 and her service is August 3 at 11:30 am at Living Savior.

Thank You

Journeying through Grief is a set of four short books to send to people at four crucial times during the first year after the loss of a loved one. Author Kenneth C. Haugk writes in a warm, caring style, with short, easy-to-read chapters. He walks alongside the reader through the grief journey, sharing helpful insights about grief, biblical truths, and stories that provide comfort and reassurance. The set includes the four books, four envelopes and a tracking card as to when to send them.

We are making them available to you to share with others. They are $8 and can be purchased in the church office during regular office hours or on Sunday from a Stephen Minster leader.

MISSIONARY NEWS
Be sure to check out the newsletter from Mark Rabe, our missionary in Ethiopia. It is posted on the bulletin board in the entryway.
In it you will read that between the Hossana and Mekane Yesus seminaries, 430 Theology students graduated in Theology.

A SIMPLE, POWERFUL WAY TO CARE FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE GRIEVING

To the family of Bert A, who died June 27, 2019. His funeral service was July 13.

And to the family of Mary L, who died July 18 and her service is August 3 at 11:30 am at Living Savior.

With Sincere Sympathy

Thank You

I want to thank all of you who have supported my family and me with prayers, words of condolence, hugs, cards, and offers of help in our time of grief. We are blessed by your love and concern.

In Christ,
Stephanie S. and family
We can all look forward to September when we resume our book club which begins Saturday, September 14. We meet the second Saturday of each month, 10:00-11:30am, September-May. A lively discussion of the book occurs, fellowship is shared and we are refreshed with morning goodies, coffee and 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:

**September**
- A Gentleman in Moscow by Amor Towles

**October**
- A Duty to the Dead by Charles Todd

**November**
- I’m No Hero by Charlie Plumb & Glen DeWerff

**December**
- No assigned book

**January**
- O Pioneers by Willa Cather

**February**
- The Gown by Jennifer Robson

**March**
- Major Pettigrew’s Last Stand by Helen Simonson

**April**
- Carnegie’s Maid by Marie Benedict

**May**
- The Language of Flowers by Vanessa Diffenbaugh

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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 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 the church office.

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**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.

Saturday, August 17, 10:00 am
Library
Living Savior Lutheran Church

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**Come Check Us Out!**

**DID YOU KNOW THAT?**

- We have a book shelf dedicated for books that the Book Club at Living Savior has read.
- We have a book shelf of puzzles for you to check out.
- We have reference material, Bible studies, children’s craft & learning idea books.
- 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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**4th Annual Phil Fribley Memorial Golf Tournament**

**WHEN:** August 25, 2019, 1:30 pm, prizes to follow play

**WHERE:** Charbonneau Country Club, Wilsonville

**WHAT:** Nine holes of play, scramble format

- Four person teams.
- Playing 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.

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**Youth News — Mission Trip**

A shout out of thanks goes to the Living Savior youth and the counselors for their contributions to the Family Vacation Bible School in July as part of their mission trip activities for this summer.

The youth helped with set up on Sunday and then stayed at the church all night for each of the nights of VBS. During the days they participated in several mission activities in downtown Portland. (Look for a Mission Trip report in September.) Each evening they helped with a craft station, in preparing the Wednesday meal, with recreation and with the skits. VBS Director, Charlotte B., says they were invaluable towards the success of this year’s program.

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**Look at What’s New!**

In addition to the scrip gift cards available at the Scrip counter, we have a new way to earn money for the building fund. It is called Benefit Mobile. It is an app on your phone that you can purchase electronic gift cards to pay for your purchases with participating retailers (no Fred Meyer or other locals) while you are in the store, online or can even send as a gift. You connect your bank account or credit card to the app for payment and a portion of your purchase goes back to Living Savior. Differently from the Fred Meyer rewards program, you actually purchase the gift card so to speak for the exact amount of your purchase on your phone while standing in line and have it scanned. You don’t carry any physical cards. Great for those who haven’t liked to think ahead of what to buy or don’t want to carry a bunch of cards in your wallet or purse. The rewards are a little less than what the Scrip gift card offers, but more convenient for some. Here is the link to get signed up:

https://www.benefit-mobile.com/causes/living-savior-lutheran-church

Stop by the Scrip counter for information on how to sign up and details. Take a look at the sight and review the merchants available, there are many. Send the link to your friends and family and have them participate too. We still have stock to sell at the counter for your Fred Meyer, Safeway and a few others leftover.

Any questions just call the church office.