A Note from Pastor Alexander…

December Advent and Christmas celebrations are followed by January’s hope for a “Happy New Year.” February, named after the Latin term februum, which means “purification” or “purge” brings a rather unlikely coupling of events this year:

- February 2: Super Bowl. The game to be remembered.
- February 14: Valentine Day. Love is remembered.
- February 26: Ash Wednesday. Our death is remembered. So is the purging of our sin through the cross of Christ. Purification comes in the blood of the perfect Lamb of God. Advent, “He’s coming!” celebrates “God incarnate is with us.” Ash Wednesday is in answer to “Why?”.

While some days in February are for games, and others are to celebrate the human love, Ash Wednesday is the remembrance of God’s words to Adam after he and Eve had tasted the forbidden fruit: “Because you have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, ‘You shall not eat of it,’ cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”

On the evening of Wednesday February 26, Living Savior will gather together and each sinner (every one of us) will receive a reminder of our broken sinful nature and our great need to be forgiven. Each one will be “marked” with ashes in the form of the Cross of Christ. Each has sinned. Each will die. Each one will return to the dust from which we have come. Thank God that isn’t where the story ends!

God’s eternal message of perfect love was revealed to all mankind with the Incarnation of God in human flesh. Now we watch perfect love in action: “Conceived by The Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary…” the long-awaited Redeemer “suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried.” It is the pure and innocent suffering and death of Jesus that purifies us. It is His death that purges our fear of death and eternal punishment and blesses us with righteousness and eternal life.

I would encourage you to literally look into a mirror after our Ash Wednesday Worship service and see the cross of ashes and death that cover you. I also encourage you to read and meditate on St. Paul’s words: Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him in baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. (Romans 6:3-5)

For us, purification is Jesus’ death and resurrection. For us, God’s mercy is the love that cannot fail but is victorious over all things. What an incredible God we have; what a blessing to be His.

Love you all.

Pastor Phil Alexander

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Living Logos

News for the members and friends of Living Savior Lutheran Church
Vol. 43, Issue #2, February, 2020

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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!
Pastoral Call Committee

Rev. Browning has declined the Divine Call to become our Pastor here at Living Savior Lutheran Church. A copy of his declination letter is found below. The time to get to this decision was longer than he thought it would take and I think this reflects the true seriousness of his deliberation. Our hopes were up but they were not fulfilled. Nonetheless, we are confident that the Holy Spirit simply had not intended for him to be our next shepherd as another has been chosen for us. Our charge is to go out and find him. The Call Committee will be reconvening to start another search. Be assured that your prayers for our church and this committee are heard by the Holy Spirit and will not go unanswered.

In Christ,
Jon H.
Pastoral Call Committee Chair

The Members of Living Savior Lutheran Church
8740 SW Sagert Street
Tualatin, Oregon 97062

Dear friends in Christ,

After much prayerful consideration, I believe the Lord is guiding me to remain at Hope Lutheran Church. The call to Living Savior has presented me with an invaluable opportunity to reflect upon my continuing ministry at Hope, and the work that God is doing here. At the same time, it has given me a glimpse of the tremendous work that God has done and continues to do in and through the people of Living Savior. I am confident that God is in the process of preparing your next pastor. In the meantime, I will keep you in my prayers as you seek God’s will in the call process.

May the Lord continue to bless and guide you.

In Christ,
Reverend Richard Browning
Pastor - Hope Lutheran Church

Amazing Grays are going to Germany. Pastor Nathan Brandt and Charlotte will share their 2019 trip to Germany with the group on February 6, at the Church beginning at 1:00pm. This will be an entertaining event with pictures and great stories. All are welcome to attend our meetings. The fellowship and refreshments are wonderful. Plan on attending and see you there. -Dave C.

February Devotion

For I the Lord do not change.
Malachi 3:6

It certainly seems like there is a great deal of turmoil in the world today. Partisan politics. Deadly new virus from China. Cancer. Poverty. Homelessness. Death. There is plenty of cause for worry and fear if we allow them to take root in our minds and our hearts.

I have gathered several sayings which address worry and fear:

- Worry does not empty tomorrow of its sorrows, it eme- ptes today of its strength. (Carrie ten Boom)
- When we know the Who we can endure the What without knowing the Why.
- Courage is not the absence of fear. It is the presence of God in the midst of fear. (Max Lucado)
- Fear is the dark room in which we develop our nega- tives.
- One of the things that people fear the most is change. Often change means that we don’t have control over future circumstances. In actuality, we never have control over what our future holds, but it seems comfortable to us to think in terms of stability and knowing there are certain things we can count on.

Scriptures are full of verses relating to fear, many of which begin, “Fear not…”

- Genesis 15:1 — Fear not Abram, I am your shield.
- Genesis 26:24 (to Isaac) — Fear not, for I am with you.
- Isaiah 43:1 — Fear not, for I have redeemed you;
- Luke 2:10 (to shepherds) — Fear not, for behold I bring you good news.
- Luke 12:32 (to disciples) — Fear not, little flock...
- Hebrews 13:6 — The Lord is my helper; I will not fear...

Hebrews also has some very good news for us about Jesus: The Lord has sworn and will not change his mind, You [Jesus] are a priest forever. This makes Jesus the guar- antor of a better covenant. (7:21-22) This is the New Testa- ment covenant which guarantees that we have the fullness of God’s mercy and new life. Where the Old Testament covenant was based on keeping the law, we live under God’s promise of eternal life through faith in Christ’s completed work on Calvary and His resurrection which is the reason for our hope (assurance) of the resurrected life we experience when passing into the Church Triumphant.

But before we join the saints living with Jesus in heaven, we still have our daily life of changes and challenges. We still have circumstance which we don’t control. We deal with issues such as family relationships, financial needs, employment, school, neighbors, church and other activi- ties. I once read that change can happen if the desire to move on is greater than our desire to hold on.

There are some changes in our life that may seem messy. We can be encouraged to “make our mess our message.” We can acknowledge that we are unable to fix a problem, or cure a disease, or change our circumstances, but we have a God who can do the impossible. He is faithful. He is trustworthy. He knows all things. He is never surprised at where we find ourselves, but He is always with us. We can count on Him. And we can tell others about our faith and trust in Him. God does not change. He knows our messes and loves us through them. This gives us a message to share with others.

A challenge from Max Lucado to keep our attention on the “right now” and not worry about the future:

Today, I will live today. Yesterday is past. Tomorrow is not yet. I’m left with today. So, today, I will live today.

Relive yesterday? No. I will learn from it. I will seek mercy for it. I will take joy in it. But I won’t live in it. The sun has set on yesterday.

The sun has yet to rise on tomorrow. Worry about the fu- ture? To what gain? It deserves a glance, nothing more. I can’t change tomorrow until tomorrow.

Today I will live today. I will face today’s challenges with today’s strength. I will dance today’s waltz with today’s music. I will celebrate today’s opportunities with today’s hope.

Today, may I laugh, listen, learn and love today. And tomorrow, if it comes, may I do so again.

Leave your problems with God. He doesn’t need our help or counsel or assistance.

© November 2015
Greeting Cards
The Shut In ministry has collected cards to place in two assisted living facilities, Marquis and Riverwood in Tualatin. These cards enable the residents to not have to shop for cards or pay for them. However, we have an abundance of cards that you have generously donated and we would like to share some of them with the congregation. They are in clear plastic containers with blue lids, located in the Library, upstairs next to the arched room. Please help yourself to cards anytime you have a need.

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.

What Is a Safety Monitor?
Let me tell you...A Safety Monitor will help latecomers to service, answer inquiries, provide direction for arriving emergency responders, or direct individuals during an emergency evacuation.

Would you like to get more involved? The Safety and Security Committee is looking for people to help monitor the Narthex during either service so as to relieve the ushers from that duty. Resources are available to watch or listen to the service and for the ability to step in for communion.

Please contact the church office, an usher, Arnie Chase or Tom Sonoff if you would like to find out more about volunteering for this important ministry at Living Savior.

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January’s Single Women’s Group game night event was deemed a success by all who attended. Many games were available to play and as always, great food and lots and lots of conversation and laughter. Many learned a new game or revisited a game they hadn’t played in a long while.

February’s event will be a potluck ‘Valentine’ dinner scheduled for February 22 at 5:00pm at the Church. This will be a fun time and ladies are asked to wear a tiara, store bought or home made, doesn’t matter. More details regarding the menu to follow. If you haven’t joined the group before, this will be a great opportunity to see what the group is all about.

-Vicki S.

New Choir

Ever wanted to sing in a large choir? Celebration Community Choir is a brand new community choir in Tualatin, Oregon, performing a wide range of Gospel styles. This choir is directed by Ron Cochran who recently retired after 30 years as the Music Director at Portland Christian Center. He produced and directed Portland’s Christmas Celebration, featuring over 300 singers and live orchestra, drawing over 15,000 people annually.

Celebration Community Choir is open to everyone, ages 18 and up. The first rehearsal will be on Tuesday, February 11, 7:00pm at Living Savior Lutheran Church. All are welcome to attend. For more information, please contact Ron Cochran at rcochrancccc@gmail.com or visit their website: CelebrationCommunityChoir.com

Stewardship Update

Contributions for 2019 are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Fund</td>
<td>$ 596,328</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Budget</td>
<td>$ 585,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Variance</td>
<td>$ 11,328</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building Fund Contributions:</td>
<td>$60,654</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Thank you for your faithful giving!

On behalf of the Stewardship Board, we are pleased to announce that our mortgage balance is below $1 million! This has been accomplished through steady giving to the Building Fund and the use of Excess Funds. Congratulations!!!

One giving option that may help you reduce your tax burden is a “Qualified Charitable Distribution”. For those that are over age 70 ½ and have an IRA with a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD), you can bypass paying taxes on any proceeds that are gifted to a charity/religious organization/501c3. Instead of receiving the RMD, paying the full tax, and then making your regular offering contribution, you can instead have some portion of your RMD transfer directly from your IRA to a 501c3 organization (like Living Savior) and avoid paying taxes on that income. If you would like more general information about this, please contact Adam Willie. For anything more specific or detailed, please consult your tax advisor.

If you have questions, please contact me at the Church office.

Thank you.

Adam W.

Dinners of Eight

Dinners of Eight, January through March return by popular demand. Our second of three dinners will be Sunday, February 9, 5:00-7:00 pm. You may sign up on the “chef” poster in the church narthex until February 2. You are asked to sign up each month. 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?: Dinners of Eight are dinners for about eight participants, to be held at a host’s home. Multiple suppers will be going on at various locations at the same time. The host generally provides 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 Valerie W. 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 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.

FUTURE DINNER DATES: Sundays, February 9 and March 8, 5:00-7:00pm.

This is a month by month commitment only.

Don’t miss this wonderful opportunity!

Book Club

Please join us for book club discussions. We meet the second Saturday of each month, 10:00-11:30am, September-May. A lively discussion of the book occurs, there is fellowship and we are refreshed with morning goodies, coffee and tea. 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:

- **FEB. 8** The Gown by Jennifer Robson
- **MAR. 14** Major Pettigrew’s Last Stand by Helen Simonson
- **APRIL 11** Carnegie’s Maid by Marie Benedict
- **MAY 9** The Language of Flowers by Vanessa Diffenbaugh
February 2020 at Preschool

February brings us reminders of love. We have so much fun showing that love at these events in February: 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!). But we all know the greatest love comes from above. What love The Father has that He sent His son Jesus to be our Savior.

This month our bible stories tell about some of the miracles Jesus performed and the parables He told. We start the month with the Wedding at Cana. Jesus performed His first miracle here by turning water into wine. The following week we learn about the ten men who were lepers. Jesus helped them get better, but only one man went back to say thank you. The next week we hear how Jesus raised Jairus’ daughter from the dead. The last week of the month we learn of the Good Samaritan. The man who stopped to help someone who was in trouble. All of these stories teach us just how powerful and mighty God is, and how we should always treat others with love and kindness.

Secular topics this month include community helpers and safety. Through dramatic play, books, and discussions children will learn about the different community helpers and safety.

Drama for February will consist of two weeks of construction. Children will be able to build and construct with boxes and tools. The next two weeks will be a hospital. Children will be able to use doctor tools to perform checkups on baby dolls. Checking temperatures, giving shots, and listening to heartbeats are all part of a checkup.

During February we have our traditional Dad’s Breakfast on Saturday, February 8th. Preschoolers bring their dads to “their place of work” to show their dads what they do at school. Then they take their dads to enjoy a pancake breakfast and sing for them. It’s a special time for all!

It’s time to sign up for preschool for the 2020-2021 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, 2020 to enroll. Or Pre-k children must be turning 5 years old by December 31, 2020. Please obtain a registration form by printing out it from the church Web site: www.living-savior.org.

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

In Christ,
Denice Hornberger & Preschool Staff

In January, the Stephen Ministers explored the helpful resource, CaringBridge. It allows people facing various medical conditions and their family and friends to communicate. CaringBridge is the first non-profit social network with global reach whose mission is to connect loved ones during a health journey through personal, private websites. CaringBridge prioritizes privacy with no advertisements or selling of user data. People who are provided with an individual’s personal website address (URL) and password can read updates on the individual’s condition or post messages to the family as needed. All CaringBridge sites are free and CaringBridge is funded by donor support. Since its inception, over 740,000 CaringBridge sites have been created by people all over the world.

If you are interested in how this works for, go to: www.caringbridge.org.

To find out more about Stephen Ministry or how you or someone you know could be matched with a Stephen Minister, talk with one of our Stephen Leaders:

Karen H.
Valerie W.
Andrew W.
Pastor Alexander

TOPICS IN FEBRUARY FOR STEPHEN MINISTERS IN TRAINING

- Supervision: A Key to Quality Christian Care
- How to Make a First Caring Visit
- Follow Me

The Stephen Ministry trainees have been faithfully attending the weekly training sessions since the middle of September. Please pray for the following people as they work through the last month of their training:

Brad A.  Brent B.
Stephanie S.  Marc T.

Commission of Stephen Ministers
Sunday, March 8, both services

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

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 for the set and can be purchased in the church office during regular office hours or on Sunday from a Stephen Minister leader.
**Survey Coming.** Look for the Survey Monkey in your email inbox to get your input on what’s important about mission projects. What are the considerations you have in choosing to support a charity? We will use this information in our process for establishing our criteria for support.

Living Savior is scheduled to host our local homeless families during the week of January 26–February 2. Once again we would be grateful for your help. Many roles from room set up and break down, food preparation, and overnight hosts are needed and these roles and shifts can be split between families and friends. Please contact Karen R. or Roberta in the church office.

Bethesda Auxiliary membership is in February. Watch for more information in Parish Notes. If you have questions please contact Shari R. at the church office.

Living Savior will host a blood drive on Saturday, February 29. Contact Ken D. If you have questions please contact Karen R. or Roberta in the church office.

**Community Warehouse** is like a food bank – only they focus on household goods and furnishings. They are located in Tualatin at 8380 SW Nyberg St. 503-612-0020 Hours are: M-F, 10am – 4pm + Sat.-Sun. 10:30am – 4pm

We will continue to collect smaller items that will fit in or next to the purple bag in the fellowship hall. If you are looking for a worthwhile organization to donate furniture that truly serves needy people in our community, this is a great place. 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

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

**Tualatin School House Pantry**

Current needs: canned fruit, canned soup, canned pasta meals (chili, pansies, etc.) boxed mac & cheese, and powdered laundry detergent. They can always use extra paper grocery bags.

Bring donations to the church and place them in the bin in the Narthex.

**Mission Grant Update:**

National LWML - 2019-2021 Mission Grant Goal: $2,100,000

Grant #4

Paid $100,000 for God’s Grace for This Generation, on behalf of Lutheran Association of Missionary Pilots (LAMP). This grant will help LAMP’s cross-cultural ministry share Christ with God’s people in remote areas of Canada by expanding their staff of full-time missionary pilots to four or five. Hans Springer and his wife, Marie accepted this check just inside the doors to the Fellowship Hall. Return filled boxes to the large Mite Box on top of the bookshelf. The coins may be put into the large box or you may leave the entire box and take a new one.

**Save the Date!** Saturday, March 7, 2019

11:00am—3:00pm Zone Rally - Project Linus
Pilgrim Lutheran Church, Beaverton

The rally will be held in conjunction with the Project Linus Portland chapter. Their mission is to provide love, a sense of security, warmth, and comfort to children who are seriously ill, traumatized, or otherwise in need through the gifts of new handmade blankets and quilts. The chapter has donated over 60,000 blankets since organizing in 2001.

The rally will begin at 11:00am with a Bible study led by Andrea Gehrke with the theme: Sing! Tell! Declare! To all nations. Lunch will be served and then we will join together for an afternoon of blanket making. The only items that you need to bring are a length of fleece 1 and ½ yards in length and a sharp pair of scissors. The fleece should be a design for either a boy or girl. They won’t accept team, military, or religious designs. These blankets only require one thickness of fleece and they must be the 1 and ½ yard length measurement. These are the requirements from Project Linus. We will show participants how to cut and tie the blanket. Questions? Contact Judy C. at the church office.

**Looking Ahead . . .**

**Oregon District 32nd Biennial Convention**

June 26—28, 2020 + Macleay Convention & Retreat Center + Salem, Oregon

Opening Communion Service, Friday, June 26, at 7:00pm
Guest Speakers, Servant Events, Department Displays, Exhibitors and *Missionaries.

- A special treat for Living Savior members. Pastor Mark Rabe who is a missionary with his family in Ethiopia will be one of the guest speakers at convention. Pastor Rabe will also be spending some time at Living Savior while home.

  Declare God’s glory among the nations. His marvellous works among all the peoples! 1 Chronicles 16:24