From the Pastor’s Office…

Driven to Prayer

There are times when we are driven to prayer because we have exhausted all of our abilities to help a situation or because of our inability to be present with those who are in need.

As I write here near the middle of July in 2016, vexing, confusing, and troublesome situations seem to pummel us daily in a country that is seething and angry and where violence has become very common place. And of course, it isn’t just here but throughout the world as we hold our breath waiting for the next flash of bad news.

With a young man from our house that will be deployed to Iraq sometime this fall (the date intentionally withheld) we too, sense we are driven to prayer because our opportunity to be a positive influence on this young man is now past us, and we can only pray that what we have modeled, spoken, and instructed will go with him. We know the Lord will go with him. Powerless to hover over the circumstances he will encounter, we can only pray that the Lord will protect him and at the same time know that the Lord knows him and watches over him.

We also have troubles in our own country. We are an imperfect people. Pride, prejudice, mean-spirited mistreatment, favoritism, malice, envy, hatred (see Ephesians 4:28 for a complete list) and grievous mistakes have all been a part of our past, our present, and sadly, will be part of our future. If there were an easy fix, it would be time to do so – but it is a complicated, multi-sided problem. Some problems are larger than us and we are driven to prayer.

We have people in our congregation who are in the midst of great pain – and when I hear of it and see it and visit with those in pain, I must confess that my heart pours out for them. The male-female side of me would love to fix it, but slowly I have been shown that I can’t fix everything. Sometimes we can only listen and empathize and again we are driven to prayer.

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Perusing through a Lutheran Prayer Book that has been sitting on my desk, I came to this one and thought it appropriate:

We pray to You, almighty God, in this time of crisis.
You are our refuge and our strength, a very present help in time of trouble.
Do not let us fail in the face of these events.
Uphold us with Your love and give us the strength we need.
Help us in our confusion and guide our actions.
Heal the hurt, console the bereaved and afflicted, protect the innocent and helpless, and deliver any who are still in peril; for the sake of Your great mercy in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Pastor Brandt
**SR. YOUTH**

**WEDNESDAYS 8/3 - No Sr. Youth - Mission Trip in Progress**
8/10 - Mission Trip Picture Party!
8/17 - Annual Planning Meeting
8/24 - Island Green Miniature Golf
8/31 - No Sr. Youth

**Jr. YOUTH**

“Believe” is coming to Portland October 7-8 and we’re going!! This will be our “winter” retreat. It’s a high-energy weekend event for middle schoolers at which they will experience age-intentional worship, challenging teaching from some of the country’s best Jr. High speakers, and encouraging times of discussion with peers and adult leaders.

**REGISTRATION IS OPEN NOW!!** Info was mailed to parents. Form and deposit are due by August 15. Don’t miss this awesome gathering! Questions? See Heidi Frank.

**SR./JR. YOUTH**

**SIGN UP for OPERATION OVERCOAT (September 24) which begins in August! Watch your email and Parish Notes. Contact Heidi Frank to sign up.**

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**AMAZING GRAYS**

We will not have a regular meeting in August because of the busy vacation month. We will resume our regular meetings on Thursday, September 1, 2016.

Our major August event will be to help set up and attend the "All Church Summer Picnic" on Sunday, August 7, after the 10:15am service. Information will be forthcoming soon about this event.

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**SR. YOUTH**

Believe gathering

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**GOD is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.**

Psalm 46:1

Psalm 60 taken from Psalms/Now by Leslie F. Brandt (Concordia Publishing House, 1973)

You made us, O God, a great nation. The lands beyond our own tremble at our awesome might. The rich wine of material wealth dulled our senses. The tyranny of things obscured our vision. We grew arrogant, self-satisfied, and were often insensitive to the needs of your creatures beyond our borders.

We waved our swords menacingly at potential enemies of our great country. We established our outposts in the very heart of the enemies’ camps. We extended our powerful tentacles into other nations’ undeveloped resources and drew their blood into our own. And we did this in Your name, and we consigned ourselves that it was by Your will. Now our defenses have been broken down, O Lord. Our fortress has been breached. We have given birth to offspring that threaten us from within. Oppressed people within our boundaries are rising up to assert their identity. Our disillusioned youth are rebelling against our hypocrisy and insensitivity that threaten us from within.

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Vacation Bible School Volunteers — Thank You!!

A huge THANK YOU to the many volunteers who made this year’s Family Vacation Bible School a HUGE SUCCESS. Coordinator Ginger Leas did a fantastic job in bringing the love of Jesus into the midst of our barnyard adventures. From decorations to meals to story telling, registration, hay rides, outdoor activities, quilting, singing, setting up and cleaning up, and everything in between, we were blessed with faith building fun and fellowship.

Recipe for Dave’s VBS Mac ‘n Cheese:

Boil 1 lb. macaroni in salted water
Make a roux:
Melt 1/4 lb. butter in a large skillet, Add 1 cup finely chopped onion and caramelize
Stir in 3 tbs. flour and salt, black pepper & paprika to taste
Pour in slowly 1 qt. milk and heat to a simmer
Gradually add 2 lbs. grated assorted cheeses: cheddar, asiago, jack, etc.
Whisk until melted and smooth
Combine with cooked macaroni, blend and spread in buttered baking pan.
Dump more grated mixed cheese over it all.
Top with bread crumbs browned in butter.
Add option: parmesan or dry toasted onions
Bake 350 for 30-45 minutes
Allow to cool 10 minutes if you want to cut into squares.

BOOK CLUB

Just one more month of summer break before the Book Club resumes its regular meetings on the second Saturday of each month at 10:30am. The selection for the September 10th meeting is “The Nightingale” by Kristin Hannah. Everyone is welcome whether or not you have read the book so come and enjoy some good fellowship and refreshments. I hope you had an enjoyable summer and look forward to seeing you in September.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Author</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 10</td>
<td>The Nightingale</td>
<td>Kristin Hannah</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 8</td>
<td>Fair Play</td>
<td>Deeanne Gist</td>
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<td>Nov. 12</td>
<td>Jane Eyre</td>
<td>Charlotte Bronte</td>
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<td>December</td>
<td>Advent Devotions</td>
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<td>Jan. 14</td>
<td>The Emperor of All Maladies: A Biography of Cancer</td>
<td>Siddhartha Mukherjee, M.D.</td>
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STEVEN MINISTRY

Who Are Stephen Ministers?
Stephen Ministers are members of Living Savior who have gone through 50 hours of training in providing high-quality Christian care to individuals experiencing a crisis or challenge such as divorce, grief, loss of a job, hospitalization, relocation, or loneliness. Stephen Ministers are each assigned a care receiver and meet with that care receiver for about an hour a week. This caring relationship will last for as long as the care receiver needs it. If you would like more information on how to become a Stephen Minister or to receive care from, please contact the church office.

“Please Keep This Confidential…”

When you say these words to your Stephen Minister, you can be assured your Stephen Minister will keep quiet about what you share. Confidentiality is a cornerstone of Stephen Ministry. Stephen Ministers don’t reveal anything their care receiver says – and don’t even tell anyone who their care receiver is.

CAREGIVERS SUPPORT GROUP

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, 9:00am to share resources, encourage one another and fill our spiritual cup. Please join us in! Questions? Call the church office.

Saturday, August 20, 9:00am
Board Room, Living Savior Lutheran Church

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?
Volunteers are trained for this ministry. If you would like to be a part of this ministry or have questions, please contact the church office.

DO YOU KNOW OF SOMEONE WE CAN VISIT?
Please contact the church office.

DVD RECORDINGS OF SUNDAY SERVICES

Each week a church service is recorded on DVD and a copy is located on the book shelf on the left as you walk into the narthex. Portable DVD players to view services are available for check out through the office secretary.

Thank You!!
Meet on the first and third Saturdays of each month. Starting at 7:00 am, all men are welcome to come to this breakfast and Bible study.

SCRIP NEWS

Weekly orders begin again August 21.

There will be stock on hand for regular items to purchase on Sundays between order dates.

Any questions? Contact the church office.

Dearest Living Savior Family:

Wow! Do you all know how to throw a party or what? And boy, do you know how to make someone feel very loved. What a wonderful “Anniversary Celebration” (get it? ministry Anniversary and Birthday!)

THANK YOU ... for the loving greetings and gifts, the fun food and fare, the music and laughter, flowers and balloons, and for YOU! For being there. It truly was a fun filled afternoon. I so appreciate ALL the time and effort that went in to making it a truly joyful and memorable day. It was so nice to hear from so many from our congregation and others within the Northwest District.

I thank God for the many blessings He has showered upon me and continues to shower through my family, friends, and this congregation.

Aloha!

Heidi

A sign up board is available to volunteer to make coffee for our summer Sunday fellowship time. Choose your date. Thanks!

Annual Church Picnic/Potluck

August 28 — One service at 10:15 am.

(Choir Check Parish Notes and your email for details.)

Octoberfest 2016

Save the date of October 15, 2016, for Living Savior’s Octoberfest celebration. The event is held at the Church starting at 4:00 pm with happy hour and dinner at 5:00 pm. The tickets will be $15.00 per person. This is a fund raising event to pay off the church mortgage and to support missions. Ticket sales will start closer to the event. So save date and plan to have some fun.

Home Movie Night!

We have a wonderful selection of current Christian themed DVD’s for the whole family. Please come up to the library and check one out.

We have books for every topic or situation. Please take a minute to browse through our inventory. The library is located on the second floor, next to the Upper Room (arched entries). There is a self check-out system.

Where did the summer go?

On September 7, I hope to see all of you faithful choir members up in the balcony to join in singing “Grateful Praises to our Lord”.

We always welcome new voices so I am looking forward to some added voices among our new membership. Don’t be bashful – there is no audition – the only requirement is a love of singing! MARK YOUR CALENDAR, 9/7/16 from 7 to 8:30 pm (and every other Wednesday after that).

Sunday Worship Services: 8:30 and 10:15 am with time for fellowship between services.

Christian education classes resume September 18.

Office hours: 11 am to 2 pm Tuesday through Friday.

The church office will be closed Aug. 3rd thru the 9th.

A sign up board is available to volunteer to make coffee for our summer Sunday fellowship time. Choose your date. Thanks!