

The Pines

The Monthly Newsletter of Our Saviour Lutheran Church

No. 6 June 2009

Worship 9:30 am & 6:00 pm - No Sunday School



Thanks to a very generous gift to the congregation, an exciting new ministry is coming to Our Saviour Lutheran Church this fall. This gift makes it possible for us to start the Stephen Ministry program. Stephen Ministry is grounded in Jesus' command to love one another. Through one-on-one confidential caring relationships, those who are hurting receive the love and care they need to support them through the challenges of life. From losing a job to losing a loved one, from becoming homebound to the diagnosis of a terminal illness, from relocating to a new community to retiring from your job of many years, from seeing your first child off to school to taking your baby to college everyone goes through transitions, difficulties, and crisis at some point in their lives. Having a trusted companion, who cares, walks with, listens, and shares God's love can help a person get through the grief, confusion, stress, or loneliness they may be experiencing. This is what Stephen Ministry is all about!

The first step in building this ministry is to identify people to be trained as Stephen Leaders. They will attend a one-week training conference where they will learn how to implement the Stephen Ministry program into this congregation as well as how to train people to provide care to others. Our soon-to-be Stephen Leaders are Lee Grant, Catherine Sigmon-Mitchell, and Pastor Scott. They will attend training from June 7-June 13. Since I am already trained as a Stephen Leader, I will eagerly await their return so that we can move forward with this ministry.

That takes us to the next step which will be recruiting folks who would like to be trained as a Stephen Minister. Stephen Ministers listen, pray, encourage, care, visit faithfully, and bring Christ's love and care to others. A Stephen Minister is someone who is selected, trained and supervised by the Stephen Leaders to provide effective and confidential one-on-one Christian care to those in need. Stephen Ministers receive 50 hours of initial training before they are placed in a caring relationship as well as continuing education to enhance their care giving skills. Because of the significant nature of this ministry, Stephen Ministers typically make a two-year commitment to serve.

Caring for people in need or crisis is at the heart of the ministry at Our Saviour Lutheran Church. We are blessed with an active Care Ministry team that prepares and delivers food, sends card, visits those in need, sends care packages, provides transportation, and so much more. Yet this ministry is not equipped to meet the personal and confidential needs of others for an extended period of time.

Pastor Scott and I take pastoral care very seriously. We visit folks before surgery and while they are in the hospital. We visit folks who are recovering at home and those who are unable to come to worship. We counsel with those who are preparing for marriage, those whose marriages are struggling, and those facing challenging times. We care for families whose loved one has died and we visit with families who are celebrating the birth of a new baby. Even after doing all of these things we are unable to provide all of the care that people need and this saddens and frustrates us.

Stephen Ministry will help bridge this gap. Oftentimes, pastors are crisis responders. They rush in during the crisis; provide care in the heat of the moment, and then when the crisis is over for that person they move on to care for the next person in crisis. With trained Stephen Ministers in place, the extended care that people need or desire will be provided through a confidential one-on-one caring relationship between a Stephen Minister and a person in need.

Please include Lee, Catherine, and Pastor Scott in your prayers as they go away for training. Please also pray for the Holy Spirit to identify people who have the gifts for providing care to others and who would like to be trained as Stephen Ministers. Look for more information about becoming a Stephen Minister at OSLC in the near future. Please speak to any of the Stephen Leaders if you have questions or would like more information.

May God bless us in our ministry together,
Pastor Pam

May 13, 2009

Fellow Members of Our Saviour Lutheran Church:

At a specially called meeting on Sunday, May 10, 2009, the Congregation Council voted unanimously to hire Erica Furman as the new Director of Christian Education, Youth, and Family Ministries at OSLC.

Erica will graduate this month from Elon University and will begin her duties here on June 15, 2009. Please join me in welcoming her to Our Saviour. You can best do that by wearing your name tag and making a special effort to introduce yourself to her each time you see her for awhile.

Her biographical sketch is on the back side of this letter. She is a lifelong Lutheran who has an abiding love for God, and she is anxious to share that love and discipleship with each of you.

New families arriving in the area have much to choose from when they consider their religious experience, and we feel Erica's enthusiasm and obvious personal relationship with the Lord will have a positive effect on those potential new members, as well as our current ones.

I would like to assure you that the Congregation Council decided to fill this position knowing full well that our current financial picture is not exactly a pretty one. Income is well behind the spending plan for the first four months of the year.

Yet, we feel that if we did not fill this full time position, our finances could indeed worsen.

In other words, to attract and maintain a growing, dynamic congregation, we must have Christian Education opportunities for our children, youth and adults. This does not happen without planning and commitment. Thus, we felt compelled to fill this critical position.

We are addressing our financial situation in several ways. The Finance Committee is researching ways to reduce the cash flow, and the Congregation Council will explore both fund raising options and cost cutting at its next meeting.

We have placed the needs of the church first. Now we all need to pull together to help us meet the finances those ministry needs require. Would each of you ask yourself: "What can I do to help the church reduce this deficit? What ideas can I bring to the Congregation Council for monetary savings? Is there more that I can pledge for the remainder of this year? And If I have not pledged, is it time to do so? Can I give a little bit more to help this congregation do ministry?"

Yours in Christ,

Doug Aitken, Congregation Council President



Merry Christmas!

"HAS JENNIFER LOST HER MIND?" is undoubtedly what you're asking yourself right now. No, I haven't lost my mind...I'm just planning on a fun opportunity for fellowship and music on Saturday, July 25th called "Christmas In July". From 10:00 am to 1:00 pm we will gather for fellowship, fun and games, music and lunch. Bring a Christmas gift to share - it can be any oddity lying around your house or a strange find from the dollar store! Bring your family, your best friend, your dog (okay, maybe not your dog) and come celebrate the birth of Christ in the heat of July!

- ❖ **NEW DATES FOR MUSIC DAY CAMP!** Due to many conflicts that most campers have June 15-19th, we have moved Music Day Camp to the week of July 20-24th. Please check your calendars and consider giving your child an opportunity to learn more about God's love for us in a creative and musical way! The cost for camp is \$65.00 per camper and the registration deadline in July 12, 2009. If you have a child, grandchild or a friend who might be interested, please don't hesitate to contact me at 692-2662 x108.
- ❖ **COME AND WORSHIP** with us at 9:30 or 6:00 pm this summer starting Sunday June 7th. If you are interested in offering your musical talents during worship, drop by my office or give me a call. God gave you your gifts to be used to praise Him.

Jennifer Thomas
Director of Music Ministries

PARENTS OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH:

Task Group to develop and implement a children's music ministry at Our Saviour. If you are a parent and would be interested in your child being involved in a children's music program at Our Saviour then you are invited to an information meeting.

Tuesday evening June 16 at 7:00 PM.

Meeting will be held in the Choir Room

If you are interested and cannot attend this meeting please email pastorscott@oslscsp.org.

The plan is to have a children's music ministry up and going by the beginning of the new school year.

SUMMER CAMPS:

Vacation Bible School: **Discovery Canyon: Explore the Wonders of the Word!** Get ready for a week of discovery, games, fellowship, and wonder. Join us on June 21st for the Pot Luck Dinner at 5:00pm. We'll start at 5:30pm on the 22nd through the 25th, as we continue to enjoy the various activities in the Canyon. Open to all ages, pre-school thru Adult.

Kinder Camp this year is exploring the creation of God's world, Above Us, Below Us, and All Around Us. Sorry big folks: This is limited to pre-school children. It's not too late to register your child. The sign-up board is near the Christian Education door. Just a few spots left.

Day Camp Agape comes to OSLC August 3rd through August 7th. This experience is limited to rising 1st graders through 5th graders. This unique experience is led by trained Christian counselors and includes games, songs, crafts, nature activities, Bible study and FUN! We still have a few spots left. There are "Camperships" available for the tuition. Just contact one of the pastors for additional information.

Women...Save the Date...Oct 2-4



Women's Retreat at Camp Agape...indulge as you taste and see God's extravagant goodness. At *Chocolate Boutique* women will relax, laugh, and reflect on their friendships with Jesus...and enjoy meeting other women of all ages. Cost is \$150 for 2 nights lodging and 4 meals. Sign up now on bulletin board. A \$50 deposit will hold your spot...limited to the first 24 people.

Fun and Faith Filled Event for Parents

Let's fill the bus with parents on Thursday, July 2 at 5:30 pm and travel to Raleigh for a fun, informative, and faith filled event. The event is titled "Working on the Dream" and will be led by Rich Melheim, an ordained Lutheran pastor from the St. Paul Area Synod (ELCA) in a specialized call to experiment with family-connected Christian education systems. Rich promises that this event will be ½ standup comedy, 12% practical parenting advice, and 100% just plain fun. The event is free! Parents will be invited to commit to investing 5 minutes a night in family faith encounters using "The Faith 5" strategy. Here's a preview of "The Faith 5" – Faith Acts in the Home

- ✦ SHARE your highs and lows of the day.
- ✦ READ and highlight a verse of scripture in your Bible.
- ✦ TALK about how the Bible verse relates to your highs and lows.
- ✦ PRAY for your highs and lows, for your family and for the world.
- ✦ BLESS one another.

Here are the details: We'll meet at the church by 5:30 so that we can travel by bus to the event. You'll need to eat before you get here. The first 34 people get to ride the bus! Anyone else can car pool and follow the bus. Sign up on the door outside of the Christian Education office. The event starts at 7:00 and will last about 1½ hours. We'll then travel back to OSLC arriving by 10 pm. Remember the event is FREE! Folks riding the bus are asked to contribute \$2 towards gas.

Thank you!

The Social Ministry Team thanks the OSLC family for it's generous support of the Lenten Hunger Appeal. A total of \$1650.67 was given through coin boxes and checks. \$825.33 will be sent to ELCA World Hunger and \$825.34 to MANNA! (Moore Alliance Nourishing Neighbors, Amen!)

CHRISTMAS IN JULY



Our Saviour will be selecting 20 children from Mission Agape (an Hispanic mission in Robbins) and supplying back-to-school backpacks filled with school supplies. If you would like to adopt a child please fill out the form below and place it in the offering plate or return it to the Welcome Center. You will receive your student by July 15th. Social Ministry will supply the backpack, and you will receive a list of school supplies that the student needs along with instructions.

Yes, I would like to help a student:



Name: _____

Phone: _____

I cannot take a child at this time but would like to make a donation.

(Make check payable to Our Saviour Lutheran Church and note "Christmas in July" on your check.)

Signed: _____

Social Ministry thanks you for your support.
Trudy Blake, Chairperson



A Stephen Minister is...

- † A child of God who walks beside a hurting person;
- † A caring Christian friend who really listens;
- † A lay person who has received 50 hours of training in how to provide distinctively Christian care.

A Stephen Minister is not...

- † A counselor or therapist;
- † A problem-solver;
- † A casual visitor.

Speak to Pastor Pam if you'd like more information about becoming a Stephen Minister.

The Learning Tree Preschool

The Learning Tree preschool of Our Savior Lutheran Church (OSLC) has had a wonderful year of learning and fun. Preschool wrapped up its year on Friday, May 22. We had 16 four year olds graduate to kindergarten. Congratulations four year olds! We will miss you and God Bless You on your future endeavors!

This summer, The Learning Tree of OSLC is holding three sessions of summer camps on June 15-26th, June 29th-July 10th and July 27th-August 7th. The camps are Monday -Friday from 9am-12pm. There are still openings so please contact Debbie McGahey at 692-8333 for more information.

Preschool for the 2009-2010 school year starts on Tuesday, September 8th. Currently there are seven members of OSLC enrolled for next year. For more information about the preschool, please contact Debbie.

The Learning Tree Preschool of OSLC along with the Preschool Board would like to extend a special thanks to Kari Gulovich who will be stepping down from her Chairman post this year. Kari has had two children graduate from the preschool. Thank you Kari for all you have done to help the preschool over the past few years. You will be truly missed.

The Learning Tree of OSLC wants to thank OSLC members who have shown support to the preschool this year. Through various donations, four preschoolers will receive monthly financial aid via scholarships for the 2009-2010 year. Thank you so much!

The Learning Tree of OSLC would also like to extend a special thanks to Pastor Pam and Pastor Scott for your affectionate teaching of chapel lessons. These kids gain so much valuable knowledge from these lessons. Thanks so much for your love and support and for teaching our kids about Jesus. You are truly a blessing.

It has been a wonderful year and we will truly miss these beautiful children that have brightened these rooms with their smiles. Have a wonderful summer and see you next year!