



THE MESSENGER

Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church

www.beautifulsaviorlutheran.com

Check out our website. It's full of information and it's updated regularly!

Worship times—8:30 and 11 AM with Adult Forum and Sunday School in between at 9:45 AM.



The Messenger

MARCH 2010

Worship Event for Holy Week

This year on April 1, 2010, BSLC will celebrate the Passover as part of the Maundy Thursday worship event. All four gospels speak of the elaborate preparations made for Jesus to celebrate the Passover meal, or the Seder. Today we call that His "last supper" as he was arrested later that same evening. We will join with all whose roots are in the Old Testament and celebrate the Exodus of the Hebrew people from slavery and oppression in Egypt. We continue by celebrating the freedom of African peoples from slavery in the USA, the freedom of Jewish peoples from annihilation in Nazi Germany, the continuing struggle of the Afghan peoples to be free, and the freedom of all people who have been in slavery anywhere. We will also remember those who are currently suffering from any form of oppression and looking forward to their own freedom.

The Seder meal and celebration will begin at 6:00 in the Fellowship Hall and continue at 7:30 in the sanctuary with the traditional Maundy Thursday celebration of Holy Communion. This will be a liturgical meal, full of symbolism and ritual. The nursery will be available, but

children are invited and encouraged to participate in the Seder. Parents should be aware that the menu is traditional and lamb is the main course. Take your children's needs/likes into account (perhaps a snack in advance, or a supplemental cookie). Adults should be aware that it will be a fairly small meal.

Due to the nature of the meal, we will need to know the exact number of people planning to attend. There is no cost, but **reservations will be required.** Reservations can be made by signing up on one of the sheets in the narthex or by calling the church office at 360-254-9243. Reservations are not required for those who plan to attend only the communion service at 7:30.

If you would like to help with this exciting event, please contact the church office at 360-254-9243 or Barbara Myers and Jo'an Sterr.

*“Celebrating,
Deepening,
and Sharing
in
God’s Love.”*



From Pastor Jaech

Dear Friends in Christ,

The people of God are always going on journeys in the Bible. Abraham and Sarah follow the call of God from their home country to the new land of Canaan. During a famine, the sons of Israel travel to Egypt to find food. When they are enslaved, God hears their cries and leads them out of Egypt on an Exodus journey to the promised land. Seven hundred years later, the Israelites are forced to travel as military captives to Babylon. Yet, once again they are set free by God to return home from their time in Exile.

In the New Testament, more journeys take place. Jesus and his disciples walk throughout Galilee and then travel south through Samaria to Jerusalem. After the ascension of Jesus into Heaven, Jesus' followers begin a new series of journeys. St. Paul is the most active traveler of all, making multiple trips by land and boat throughout Israel, Syria, and the whole Mediterranean area.

As Abraham and Sarah discovered at the very beginning, a journey invites us to put ourselves in God's hands and follow the road that God calls us to take. It is an exercise in faith, courage, and adventure. Life becomes a graduate program of continuing education. We learn countless things each day about God, our selves, and meaning of our lives.

In this season of Lent, we are making a new journey of our own here at beautiful Savior. We are following the Way of Jesus. Through Bible study, small group discussion, worship, and personal reflection, we are exploring the path that Jesus both teaches and empowers us to take.

Modern life is incredibly complicated. Each day is packed with a hundred different tasks. We barely have enough time to pay attention to our families, let alone God. Other powerful factors insist on our attention and loyalty: work, reputation, material wealth, family obligations and more. They become the "centers" and priorities in our lives.

Yet, among these various paths and choices, Jesus invites us on a Way that brings the deepest life and joy. His Way is made up of four elements: centered in God, eyes opened, personal rebirth, and transforming the world.

Jesus is starkly honest that his Way includes dying and rising. "If anyone would follow me, let them pick up their cross and follow me." Knowing that this journey through Lent leads inevitably to Good Friday, we are led to consider how our journey will be like Christ's own journey of dying and rising. What in our life needs to die? What fear, pattern, addiction, or resentment needs to be left behind? In the world, what tragic pattern or injustice needs to die? Most importantly, how is Christ leading me and the whole world to rise to new life?

This is the Way of discovery and new learning to which Jesus calls us. This is the Way of life. May God bless us as we enter more fully into this Way during this season of Lent.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Rick Jaech



Living in The Way of Jesus

... by *Kathe Yokers*

When I was 24 years old, I was pretty secure in my faith. I had been a good student and learned my lessons well. I knew what was what, the right way that things should be done, and the right way to think ... but I wasn't always "right." I had a lot to learn. Some learning has been slow, steady, and thoughtful; some has been sudden, unexpected, and hard to experience. Looking back it all has been good for me and has made me glad!

My biggest leaps in learning have come through disruption. In fact, most major breakthroughs have come with an in-your-face confrontation, when the calm waters of my faith life were ruffled into "white water", and God moved me into an often radically different, always radically grace-filled new understanding. I've had enough of these dramatic *a-ha* moments that now I wonder (with hope) what confrontations God has yet in store for me from people who challenge me to consider some wider way.

When I think about what it is to live as a person of The Way, I have come to realize the importance of being open to hear others, to think a deeper, to see a new thing, to widen my horizons and admit I was wrong or needed more or better information. I have learned that all my ideas, actions, decisions ... need to be funneled through Jesus to keep me on track. Confession and forgiveness are often important parts of gaining insight, and in keeping relationship with my challenger. Study is important because the more I learn about Bible times culture and context the better chance I have to ferret out what God was saying to those people and what it meant then – so that I don't take it at face value and miss the real impact of those words on my life.

I have experienced a rhythm in my faith life, like the tide moving in and out, often calm and predictable yet full of energy, and sometimes it is stormy and the wild energy can toss you about, but always God's love and people are ready to under gird me so that I am not destroyed on the rocks, but rather strengthened and re-energized.

Jesus doesn't invite us to a simple faith; life is always complex and challenging. I have found that God continues to stir me up and stretch me whenever held ideas threaten to lock me in or limit my view. God has a delightful way of bonking me on the head so that I will open my eyes to look at something I was sure I had figured out, and shine God's love and grace into it so that my mind could be changed. I find God growing me bigger and wider, always with more grace to go around. I wonder eagerly what else God is going to teach me! And I desire to be willing to embrace the new that the Spirit blows in, especially for the sake of the children and the disenfranchised.

If we as people of The Way are to be effective ambassadors, fully able to share God's good news in healthy ways, we are invited to plug into the energy of God's love. As we understand that God isn't interested in rule-keeping but is all about love-living we become like the God we adore and our lives will reflect joy and gratitude.



EDUCATION NEWS ...

ADULT FORUMS IN MARCH

During March, we will continue exploring the different elements of the Way that Jesus teaches us to live. We will explore how to follow Jesus more specifically in our own lives.

- Mar. 7** Transforming the World: Christ changes the world through us. Led by Pastor Jaech
- Mar. 14** The Ministry of Healing: How God's power brings new life and re-birth to us in body, mind and spirit. Led by Sue Rhodes.
- Mar. 21** Dying and Rising: The Way of Jesus involves letting go of the "old" life and receiving a "new" life. Led by Pastor Jaech
- Mar. 28** Palm Sunday and Holy Week: Jesus confronts the power of death. Led by Pastor Jaech

Lenten Soup and Bread Dinner and Vespers Services have begun!

- 5:30 PM** Dinner
- 6:30 PM** Reflection groups
- 7:00 PM** Lenten Vespers

See the related article about the "Way of Jesus" for more information about Lent.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE:

- 4/01 Seder Meal 6:00 PM**
(reservations required)
- 4/01 Maundy Thursday Service 7:30 PM**
- 4/02 Good Friday Service 7 PM**
- 4/04 Easter Sunday Festival 8:30 AM**
- Easter Festival of Flowers 9:45 AM**
- Easter Sunday Festival 11 AM**

WEDNESDAY AT CHURCH!!

Resumes after Easter ...

Wednesday Night @ Church is in full swing!! Not only do you not have to fix the meal, you get to eat out with some of the best company in town. Last year there was an average attendance at dinner of 65-70 people from Beautiful Savior. Come, bring the kids and enjoy the evening. Dinner at 5:30 PM!

How could anyone pass this up? Even the price is right. There is a suggested donation of \$5 to help cover costs, but **everyone eats**, regardless of whether they donate.

Of course there is more, much more, than just the dinner hour. **Cherub and children's choirs** rehearse before dinner (4:30 PM). **Bell choir and adult choir** rehearse after dinner. **Confirmation class** (see related article) and **high school youth group** meet after dinner, as well as the very thought provoking **Bible studies** led by Gerald Hoffman. Nursery and supervised activities for children are provided.

This is an opportunity for whole families, single people, older people and young ones to come together and enjoy getting better acquainted. At the same time we are being enriched by our common desire to celebrate and enrich our faith. No doubt about it, Beautiful Savior is **the** place to be on Wednesday evenings. See you there!

Spanish Class ~

As part of our Wednesday at Church program, Pastor Abel Gomez, is teaching Spanish to those that are interested. There maybe be a nominal fee for materials. Join Pastor Gomez on Wednesday nights at 6:30 PM!



Opportunities to learn, share, and grow ...

FRIENDSHIP SUNDAY

April 25

On Sunday, April 25, we will celebrate a day of “holy hospitality” as we invite every one we can think of to join us for worship at Beautiful Savior. Think of a time when a friend invited you to a wonderful dinner at their house. It is a joyful thing to feel welcomed and included. This is what Friendship Sunday is about: a chance to invite friends and acquaintances to a day of worship and fellowship at Beautiful Savior. There will be special music that day, meaningful worship and delicious food to enjoy afterwards at a special Coffee Hour in the Fellowship Hall.

Our Outreach Committee asks all members to start thinking of people that you can invite to come to church with you on Friendship Sunday. They can be neighbors, people you work with or do volunteer work with, friends, or any one you cross paths with! In the weeks ahead, you will receive more information in church and also suggestions about how to invite people you know.

There are many blessings that come when we have a community of friends with whom we can gather in worship and service. Friendship Sunday is a chance to pass those blessings on to others as we invite them to experience our community at Beautiful Savior. May God bless our efforts to reach out and welcome others.

BROWN BAG COLLECTIONS

For your planning, future Brown Bag collections are as follows:

March: Pastas and sauces

April: Protein foods, especially canned tuna, canned chicken and peanut butter

Brown bags will be distributed the second Sunday of each month and collections will be delivered to shelters or food banks at the end of each month. Donations should be placed in the marked barrel which will be in the back hallway or in the narthex.

The organizations that receive your donations have expressed their heartfelt thanks to all of you as we have made deliveries.

~Your Social Ministries Committee

MEXICO MISSION 2010

We are starting up our plans to go to Tijuana, Mexico, this summer and build houses for families in need. We invite you to join us! Our travel dates this summer are July 3-9.

Our next planning and organizing meeting will be on Wednesday, **February 3, at 5:30pm**. This will be during the dinner hour of Wednesday @ Church. So, join us for dinner and find out about Mexico. We will also begin to plan our Mexico Dinner and Auction that will help us raise money for this service trip.

OPPORTUNITES ...

Lunches for Free Clinic of SW Washington

Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church continues to provide sack lunches once a month for clients of the Free Clinic. We make and pack 50 lunches usually on the 3rd Thursday of each month. Lunches consist of sandwich, chips, fruit or veggie snack and cookies. The cost is approximately \$100 for the 50 lunches. Thank you to everyone for the generous donations you have provided via the envelopes in the pews. If you are interested in volunteering to help pack lunches, please call Jo`an Sterr. Many hands make light work.

Holden Village

We would like to get an all-ages group of BSLC members together to go to Holden Village, a Lutheran Retreat Center in the Northern Cascades (near Lake Chelan) for a week this summer. A week at Holden offers many opportunities for worship, exploring the great outdoors, learning from notable scholars, doing arts and crafts, and deepening relationships. The tentative dates are August 1st through August 7th, and the cost ranges from \$450 to \$1400, depending on the number of people per family. If you would be interested in participating in this trip, please put your name and contact information on the interest sheet posted in the narthex. For more information, contact Rachel Brocker at the church office

Peace & Justice News

A carload of members of Beautiful Savior headed north to Olympia for InterFaith Advocacy Day on February 16. This gathering was a joint effort of the Lutheran Public Policy Office (LPPPO) and the Washington Alliance of Churches. Many churches were represented as the group joined in prayer and conversation to address the idea that public policy can be shaped by people of faith.

This session underway is a short one dedicated to budget issues. Because of a revenue shortfall in our state, the amount of the cuts to the budget is overwhelming and devastating. Governor Christine Gregoire, for the first time ever, addressed the group assembled for InterFaith Advocacy Day. She declared that the State will have to find new revenue sources because the impact of the cuts would hurt the most vulnerable members of our society in a way that would violate her personal values.

As part of this event, LPPPO makes appointments for attendees with their legislators. Beautiful Savior members were there representing Legislative Districts 49 and 18. Most of the legislators were on the floor and weren't able to attend meetings, but Senator Craig Pridemore took the time to visit with the group and give them a behind-the-scenes look at the Senate.

Please consider attending this event next year. It is a well organized, fast-paced, and fun way to learn how to make your voice heard in Olympia.

AUTOMATED OFFERINGS through *Simply Giving*

Did you know that you can arrange with your bank to mail your church offerings directly to the church each week or each month, as you wish? We call that option *Simply Giving*. Quite a few of our church members use this method. It allows you to decide in advance what you want to give to the church and makes it happen on the schedule you create. In that way, you don't have to worry about forgetting your offering envelope on Sunday or losing track of what you are wanting to give.

Simply Giving was designed by Thrivent Financial, the Lutheran financial services association. It is similar to other bank or online services that people use to make regular bill payments. Beautiful Savior members have been using this method for about ten years and have found it very helpful. If you would like to use our *Simply Giving* program to send your offerings, please contact the church office. We have an enrollment form that you can fill out.

Fair Trade Olive Oil, Couscous, Soap from Palestine

There will be another opportunity to purchase olive oil and other items from Caanan Fair Trade on March 7. The booth in the narthex will feature these products from Palestine after both services. These items are great buys for yourself or for gifts. Support fair trade!

HAITI RELIEF

We thank all of you who made donations to relief work in Haiti following the tragic earthquake. Beautiful Savior members contributed \$7,200 directly through their church offerings earmarked for Haiti. Many of you made additional offerings through our national church body, the ELCA, or with matching funds through Thrivent, the Lutheran financial services organization.

All of these funds were channeled through Lutheran World Relief, which has had a team of people working in Haiti for the last 14 years. LWR just announced that they have received \$4 million dollars from Lutherans for Haiti. This was far beyond the \$2.5 million they originally estimated they would receive. LWR used part of this for food and shelter aid. They are using another large portion to increase agricultural production in the rural areas of north Haiti. This not only provides more foods, but it also helps farm families develop a stable income. This is the long-term development that Haiti needs and your donations are helping it happen! Thank you!



BEAUTIFUL SAVIOR
LUTHERAN CHURCH