




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
MAY 2010

STEWARDSHIP CELEBRATION!

May 23, 2010

“If the only prayer we know how to say is ‘Thank you!’, we are doing quite well.” So said the novelist and Christian writer, Frederich Buechner.

On Sunday, May 23, we will gather to celebrate God’s blessings and say, “Thank you!”

We will also take a moment to offer a sign of our thankfulness to God by pledging a portion of our financial resources for use in God’s ministry at Beautiful Savior.

May 23 will be Stewardship Celebration Sunday. God gives us everything and asks us to use it for God’s glory and the world’s good. Our financial pledges are one aspect of being wise stewards.

Join us on May 23 as we dedicate ourselves to God. Besides good worship that day, there will be some very tasty food served after both services.

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



From Pastor Jaech

During these past weeks, I have found myself enjoying all of God's gifts to us here at Beautiful Savior. To begin with, I have been immensely thankful for our excellent staff.

This especially became clear to me during Lent and Holy Week as I experienced the wonderful contributions and talents that each staff member brought to a week of very meaningful worship. Patrick inspired our worship with his skilled, beautiful music, together with his direction of the bell choir and Easter brass. Jordi guided the choirs in their offering of deeply moving anthems and also preached on Good Friday. Rachel led the planning of the Good Friday service and contributed such important elements with her liturgical dance. Mariellen supported the whole production and communication end of things, including producing huge numbers of bulletins for five services in four days. Fatima, who works quietly behind the scenes, gave marvelous care to the children in our nursery. There were so many moments in Holy Week when I relished the worship and ministry that was happening and the talented staff members who were key to making it happen.

That's just the beginning, of course, because alongside our staff were so many church members who were volunteering their gifts: choir and hand bell members; preachers during Lent (Jo'an, Jordi, Gary, Janelle, Chris, Shirley, Charlene, Phil); Seder volunteers under the direction of Barbara and Jo'an; Festival of Flowers volunteers (Carlene and Jim); Easter brunch youth, led by Nicole, Mike and Shanti; altar guild members getting everything ready; men who arranged the pews; ushers, greeters, readers and counters; brass instrumentalists.

Then, on Friendship Sunday, the gifts became apparent all over again. Excellent planning and implementation by our Outreach Committee (Bruce, Ginger, Susan, Shirley and Karen), the help of so many members who invited their friends to church that day; the ushers and greeters who helped guests to feel welcomed; the special music and food offered ...the list could go on and on!

But the gifts don't even stop there! The most essential gifts came from all of you church members and friends who filled our church during worship services and gave so much through your prayers, singing and spirit. Worship attendance through Lent, Holy Week and April was the most consistent and strong we have had. Beyond the numbers, however, I was struck how all of you participated with heart and soul as we followed the Way of Jesus and sought the transformation and new life which Christ brings us.

There is one more gift I am thankful for, as well. Even though we are in a time of financial stress and crisis, you have continued to give your steady support for our ministry through your offerings. Your generous support is crucial! In 2009 and the beginning of 2010, we operated at a deficit. Generous giving last Christmas and again during the month of March of this year have brought us much closer to meeting our budget. There are still challenges in front of us. We thank you for all of your faithful giving.

All of this ministry taking place at Beautiful Savior is an example of Stewardship. God gives us ample gifts: creative abilities, energy, time, and financial resources. As we use them in service of God and the world, we are living as good stewards of what has been given to us.

During this month of May, we will reflect more deeply on what it means to be a steward. We will also be given the opportunity to make a pledge of our financial support and volunteer time for the coming twelve months. You are already great stewards of your gifts. I look forward to see how we can develop our ministry even further.

Thank you for your gifts and presence as we join together as God's people at Beautiful Savior.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Rick Jaech



EDUCATION NEWS

ADULT FORUMS IN MAY

Sundays at 9:45 AM in our Sanctuary.

- May 2** Ecumenical and Interfaith Relationships: How is God leading us to relate with other Christians and people of other faith traditions? Led by Pastor Jaech
- May 9** Ecumenical and Interfaith Relationships: Part II
- May 16** Ecumenical and Interfaith Relationships: Part III
- May 23** Stewardship Sunday Brunch
- May 30** Memorial Day Weekend. No Sunday School or Adult Forum

Training Day – Everyone Welcome!

Sunday, May 16th, during the education hour, we will gather together to be trained in new ways to participate in the life of our church. There will be opportunities to be trained as acolytes, readers, ushers, greeters, cantors, communion assistants, coffee hour helpers, and members of the altar guild. Already know how to do everything? Great! Come and share your wisdom and experience with those who are learning. This is an all ages (besides pre-school) event. Please join us in this great opportunity for learning and fellowship!

WEDNESDAY AT CHURCH!!

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.

Meal schedule—

Sandwiches 5/5

Pizza 5/12

Sweet Tomatoes 5/19

Mexican 5/26

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!

FIRST COMMUNION CLASS

Saturday, May 8

Pastor Jaech will teach a class on Saturday, May 8, for children who are preparing to receive Holy Communion. If you have a child whom you would like to start receiving Holy Communion, you and your child are invited to this class from 10AM to 11:30AM. It is designed to teach young children about the meaning of this Holy Meal in which Christ is present to bless us in many ways. Children will help bake Communion bread during the class that will be used the next day in church. They will also receive a booklet that tells how Jesus invites everyone, including them, to the table of God's blessing. If you and your child would like to attend, please call the church office so that we know you are coming.



SUMMER FAITH FORMATION EVENTS ...

*June 28th – July 2nd **Vacation Bible School:** Camp Lutherwood Oregon will again be bringing down staff members to lead our program. There will be a half-day (9 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.) pre-school program for potty trained kids ages 3-6 and a full day (9 a.m. – 3 p.m.) program for elementary age kids. The cost will be \$40 for the first child and \$30 for each additional child. Scholarships are available if cost is an issue. Registration will begin the middle of April. Volunteers are needed to help with camp activities, crafts, photography, food, set-up, and clean-up. Please contact Rachel Brocker, the Director of Faith Formation, for more information. (360) 254-9243

*July 3rd - 9th **Mexico Mission** (see related article)

*July 12th-16th **Confirmation Camp:** We are heading to Camp Lutherwood in Cheshire, Oregon for our annual week of confirmation camp. The cost for this week is \$295. Please see Rachel for more information.

*July 10th **Creation Awareness Hike:** A day long hike / fellowship time / workshop for all ages led by Rachel Brocker, the Director of Faith Formation. We will meet at the church and carpool to a TBD trailhead within an hour of Vancouver. Pack a lunch, put on some comfortable shoes, and get ready to think about and appreciate God's creation. Please see Rachel for more information or to sign-up.

*July 23rd-25th **Family Camp** - a weekend at Camp Lutherwood Oregon set aside for families to come together to relax, swim, play, worship, and enjoy being away from home and at camp together. The cost for a family of four is \$170 and there may be options for carpooling. Please contact Rachel to sign-up or for more information. Lutherwood Camp Info web address:

<http://www.lutherwood.org/camplutherwood.php>

***Holden Village:** Due to timing and interest level, we will be unable to take an organized group from Beautiful Savior to Holden Village this year. But keep your eyes out for next year – we'll start planning early and get a group together!



MEXICO MISSION NEWS

A big thank you to all of you who helped make our Mexico Dinner and Auction a success. Between ticket sales and the auction, we raised \$2,100! In addition, another \$3,000 has been donated by members who have bought “stocks” in the Mexico Mission House-building venture. A special thanks goes to our chefs, Cheryl Heiserman, Alyssa Brossia, Dennis Kozacek and others; to Richard Finch who was a phenomenal auctioneer, and his assistant, Carolyn Finch; and to all of you who donated auction items and who came to eat, bid on items and have a good time.

Twenty-seven members and friends of Beautiful Savior are preparing to leave on July 3 to spend one week in Tijuana, Mexico, building three small houses for homeless families. Our Mexico Mission Team will stay at a Lutheran church in Tijuana named El Divino Salvador (The Divine Savior). The team is made up of 17 adults and 10 youth. The members of this year’s team are: Bill McGann, Peter McGann, Gabe McGann, Dennis Kozacek, Kyler Kozacek, Carter Kozacek, Jacob Jackson, Kevin Stenberg, Ivan Esparza, Kathy Esparza, Marissa Rojas, Laura Blaisdell, Claire Blaisdell, Dave Hellerud, Erin Hellerud, Susan Helms-Peyer, Ray Smith, Chad Hertel, Kristy Nessly, Barry Nessly, Will Harrison, Terry Snyder, Evan Snyder, Paul Jones, Andrea Jones, Gary Bohman and Pastor Jaech. This year, Evan Snyder will be doing his Eagle Scout project as part of the Mexico Mission. He will be bringing Bibles and books for youth to Tijuana.

We appreciate so much the willingness of the team members to volunteer their time and energy, as well as the money they spend on air travel and food expenses in Mexico. We also want to thank all the members of Beautiful Savior who helped raise money for this mission at our Mexico Dinner and Auction. It costs approximately \$21,000 for a team of 27 people to go to

Mexico to build three houses. The biggest costs are airfare, construction materials and our lodging/food while we are in Mexico. Another significant cost is the rental of passenger vans, which we use to get to the work sites.

Team members pay about \$11,000 of these expenses out of their own pockets for airfare and food. Van rental, lodging at El Divino Salvador Lutheran and construction costs are paid with money we raised through the Dinner and Auction and selling stocks. Finally, a very important \$4,500 is provided by Beautiful Savior’s Social Ministry Fund, which is used to buy the construction materials. Our congregation’s Social Ministry Fund comes from 2.5% of Sunday offerings that are set aside to support programs of ministry in our community and the world. Through your support of our Dinner and Auction, and through your regular offerings, all of you are important partners in building homes for those in need. Thank you so much for your help!

The next planning meeting for the Mexico Mission will take place on Wednesday, May 26th at 5:30pm, during the dinner hour of Wednesday @Church.



Opportunities to learn, share, and grow ...

Love and Logic @ Regroup

Sunday, May 2nd. Regroup is meeting from 12:15 – 1:45 for our next Love and Logic class! Parents with children middle school age and younger are invited to attend for a time of learning and support. Childcare will be provided. Contact Rachel, the Director of Faith Formation, for more information.

BEAUTIFUL SAVIOR

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

COMING SOON ...

Do you own or manage a business or provide a service that you'd like others to know about? Introducing the BSLC Business Directory. This networking tool is designed to not only generate business for you, but to allow others to call on you first.

From yard service, auto repair, house cleaning to dog walking, if you would like your business known to our members to call on first, let us know.

We will have a sign up sheet in the narthex, or call/email Karen Isely.

BROWN BAG COLLECTIONS

May's brown bag collection is Pasta!

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

GREEN TEAM NEWS!

The following is some interesting information from "***We Are What We Do---Change The World For Ten Bucks***".

Did you know?

Planting flowers, trees and a garden turns carbon dioxide into oxygen which is good for the body and the mind and can save money too.

One load of clothes dried in an automatic dryer (instead of hanging on a line) uses as much energy as it would take to make 250 pieces of toast.

A TV plugged in still uses half as much electricity as a TV turned on.

In the US 25 billion styro-foam cups are thrown away--enough to circle the earth 400 times.

Leaving the faucet on while brushing your teeth wastes two gallons of water per minute.

PICNIC COMING SOON!

Come help kick-off VBS with a Congregational BBQ, **June 27th after the 11 o'clock service**. Come meet the group from Lutherwood and support our kids as we jump into a week of fun and learning about Jesus. **This is a pot luck so please bring your favorite side dishes, salads, and desserts.**

OPPORTUNITIES ...

Peace & Justice

Beautiful Savior's Peace & Justice group meets the third Monday of every month at the home of Rick & Ann Giles (6132 Broadview Lane, Vancouver 696-3696). The evening begins with a potluck meal at 6:00 p.m. and continues with a meeting at 7:00. All who feel called to this ministry are welcome.

Free Clinic of SW Washington Sack Lunch Program—May 20th

Our congregation continues to make sack lunches once a month for the clients of the Free Clinic. We pack 50 lunches usually on the third Thursday of the month. The cost is about \$100 and we thank all those who have donated money and/or time to this program. If you'd like to help make and pack lunches, please call Jo'an Sterr.

Youth Sunday

Come to church Sunday, May 9th, to celebrate Mother's Day with our youth! The High School Group will be leading many parts of the service, including sharing the message. Please worship with us on this special day!

Young Adult Group

Friday, May 7th, at 7 p.m. the young adult group will be meeting at Jordi Yokers and Chad Hertel's house for an evening of food, games, and good times. Anyone over the age of 18 is welcome to attend. Bring your favorite game and some food item to share. For more information, contact Rachel Brocker.

Lock-in on May 14th!

What: 13 hour lock-in

Who: Middle School Youth

Where: Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church

When: May 14th, 9 p.m. – 10 a.m.

How: You drop your child off at church and we'll take care of the rest. We'll be playing games, watching movies, and generally having a good time!!!

What to bring: Sleeping bag and pillow, favorite movie or game, snack to share.

Contact: Rachel Brocker, the director of faith formation, for more information.

Church – 360-254-9243

RSVP by May 9th!!!!

Blood Drive

MARCH WINDS AND APRIL SHOWERS BRING MAY FLOWERS - AS WELL AS A BLOOD DRIVE !!! On May 7th, BSLC will sponsor another Drive. Let's "SPRING" into action and try to make this the most successful drive yet! No matter what season it is or whether it's raining or snowing or 106 degrees, blood is always needed to save the lives of men, women and children. Please help by either making a blood donation, or by baking some cookies for those who do donate, or by helping at the drive on May 7th. Sign up in the Narthex after Sunday services or contact Sandi Holland. You can also sign up on-line www.givelife.org Code: beautifulsavior-vanc Thank you!!

THANK YOU!!

A GREAT BIG SHOUT OUT to all of the volunteers who have stepped forward to help make and pack lunches for the **Free Clinic of SW Washington!** Especially thank you to **Tim Nelsen** for purchasing food and organizing the operation on the third Thursday of each month at 4:00. They have become so efficient that they can make, pack and deliver in an hour or less. They were even invited to provide lunches for a special event on Saturday, April 17, for a free dental clinic at Clark College. The cost for making 50 nutritional lunches is approximately \$100 and has been supplied by the very generous gifts of members and friends of Beautiful Savior. Our account is being used up, so it is time to ask for additional donations. Watch for the special envelopes in the pews or mark your donation for the Free Clinic lunches. Thank you to the following volunteers: **Hilary Bitz, Carol Bitz, Jean Fuller, Dee Woodward, Sharron Brainard, Karen Tye, Laura Blaisdell, Mark Leed, Sonja Vegdahl, Sharon Weed, Gerald Hoffman, Martha Hoffman, Bev Questad, Don Fitzgerald, Shannon Fitzgerald, Kathie Fitzgerald, Sonja Jorgenson, Jill Hellerud, Marilyn Zehr, Chris Cleveland, and Jo`an Sterr.** Many hands make light (and enjoyable) work! If you would like to join the crew and help with lunch making or delivery or shopping please call Jo`an Sterr.

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.