

**OUR SAVIOUR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
1524 WEST MAIN, DURANT, OK 74701**

OUR SAVIOUR'S NEWS

NOVEMBER, 2011

PASTOR'S CORNER

Dear Friends,

I recently attended the annual Bishop's Convocation at camp Briarwood. The theme was "Leading Change as Grace-full Lutherans." One of the talks was on God at work in the world and how our congregation can partner with God in God's work in our community. The gist of talk was that we have to know what needs there are around us (who the poor are; what are the important issues that city hall is dealing with; etc.)

We also need to be aware of what skills we, as a congregation, have. How might we meet those needs that we discover around us? How can we adapt to the needs while at the same time maintaining our own priorities?

What kind of a caring community are we as a congregation? How do we care for our members? How do we care for non-members? What do we do well? What has happened to our congregation in the past when we had to "think outside the box?" What can we do dif-

ferently to help meet one of God's needs around us?

When we partner with God we have to develop associations with other people, churches or organizations. How well do we do that? Are we considered to be a good neighbor, or do we just exist to serve ourselves? Does the community turn to us in a time of need?

And, lastly, how do we enter into the lives of others? What kinds of contributions have we made in the life of Durant and the surrounding area?

These concerns and the positive ways in which they have been answered were all found in the lives of growing and effective congregations. These congregations were all involved in the lives of their communities.

My reason for bringing this up is because the United Way food drive is starting among us. The first week of November will be the week when

churches are asked to collect canned food items for others. Last year Our Saviour's was blessed with a pickup load of food from this same drive for our own Thursday meals. How well will we help others this year now that we are no longer able to prepare these meals?

A box will be in the narthex for that first week of November. Please be generous in blessing the lives of others as God has blessed us. May we continue to reach out to others in their needs!

In Christ,

Charles Meyer, Pastor

NEW ADDRESS

**Wayne & Annie Smith
305 Water Street,
Apt. E2
Kerrville, TX 78028
Home: 830-890-5136
Cell: 580-380-7102**

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

**4 Jim Nichols
13 Marilyn Comer
15 Devin Fox
17 Susan Remshardt
27 Judy Harris**

**There are no
November
anniversaries**

Christian discipleship is a lifelong journey of living out and spreading the good news of Jesus Christ so that others may believe. Jesus invited the disciples, and many others along the way, to embark on a faith journey as they learned about his ministry. A lifelong journey means lifelong learning. The more we discover about who we are and whose we are, the more we can appreciate the journey and the ministry to which we have been called. To help you on your journey, Our Saviour's offers an Intergenerational Sunday School at 9:30 am each Sunday. Do come!

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

*The Call Committee has received 3 candidates. 1 has withdrawn and the other 2 are being looked at. They have had telephone interviews but are waiting for cd/dvd to look at preaching styles.

*Our 2nd Annual Trunk or Treat will be on Halloween, Monday, October 31st. We will be combining our 5th Sunday Fiesta with this fellowship & community outreach event. Hot dogs and fixings will be on the menu.

*The youth will be hosting the Advent soup suppers this year. Funds raised will help them attend the 2012 ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans July 18-22, 2012. There will be 4 Wednesday night Advent services/soup suppers beginning 11/30/11.

*Commitment Sunday is scheduled for 11/20/11. Our annual potluck Harvest Dinner will also be that Sunday following the worship service.

*Sunday School has not been very well attended. There is a need for volunteers to lead the class also.

*A \$50.00 gift card to Rib Crib will be purchased as a thank you to AAA Tent Rentals for their generosity of the tent loaned for Joan Iker's Ordination.

Paige Poppe, Secretary

RED RIVER AREA 13

SPECIAL OLYMPICS LUNCH

WHEN: NOV. 8, 2011

WHERE: BRYAN COUNTY COMMUNITY BLDG.

TIME: 11 A.M TO 2 PM

\$5 WILL GET YOU A BARBECUE SANDWICH, CHIPS AND DRINK. CALL 916-2394 OR 916-1729 TO BUY TICKETS. DELIVERY WILL BE MADE FOR ORDERS OF 4 OR MORE.

SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING PROVIDED BY THRIVENT FINANCIAL FOR LUTHERANS AND MASONIC LODGE #45. Funds raised will help send the S.O. Volleyball Team to the US Open Volleyball Competition in May.

UNITED WAY FOOD DRIVE

Our Saviour's is participating in the United Way food drive in conjunction with the Durant Ministerial Association. Please bring non-perishable food items and place them in the United Way Container **by November 6**. Thank you.

ADVENT SOUP SUPPER NOV. 30

We extend our deepest sympathy to Glen & Diane Grote in the recent death of his father.

"Blessed are they that mourn; for they shall be comforted."
Matthew 5:4

BROWN BAG BIBLE STUDY & GIRL'S NIGHT OUT

The Brown Bag Bible Study and Girl's Night Out will hold a joint gathering on Nov. 8 at 11:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. **Please note there will not be an evening Girl's Night Out in Nov.**

Make your own lunch or grab a bite elsewhere to bring with you as we all discuss "Mother and Brothers" based on Mark 2:1-3:35. We will learn about Jesus in his relationship to the religious practices

and teachings of the Jewish community; discuss the interworking of faith, forgiveness and healing; learn about table practices and Sabbath customs; explore Jesus' identify and the name "Son of Man"; plus discuss the definition of family from kinship to discipleship. We'd love to have you join us whenever you can arrive and stay for however long you are able. Guests are welcome—invite your co-workers!

STEWARDSHIP

Stewardship Commitment Sunday is a day we set aside and contemplate, pray over and answer the great question; how much do I need to live on and “what” of what He (GOD) has given me, do I give back to His work to be done here on earth? I know I’m not taking it with me when I’m gone. NEEDS verses WANTS. We want to live comfortable and our family to have their needs met. But how much do I give back to God is the question.

Stewardship is from God. Read Mark 4:24-25 and Luke 12:48. “What we are is God’s gift to us and what we become is our gift to God”. This is the saying I have heard all my life and have it in my home. No one can tell you how much you should give whether it be time or treasury, it’s up to you and your family to discuss and decide what is best. Our time is sometimes easier to give than our money, but try to remember we can’t out give God in the giving department. He gave the best gift ever, His Son, Our Savior and Lord Jesus Christ.

Dear Friends in Christ,

There is so much to say. You helped make my ordination day, which might have been just “plain wonderful,” into a perfect and absolutely spiritual experience. I wish I knew exactly who did each and everything for every single detail. There are so many things to thank you for...flowers, decorating, painting and remodeling. Then there was the food, the tent, tables, chairs, the shiny floors, the new processional cross, the banner, the singing, the bulletins, worship leaders serving in the service, set up/clean up and I could go on and on. Everything could not have looked better or been better. It was perfect! I love you all and there will always be a part of me at Our Saviour’s Lutheran church in Durant, Oklahoma—the place that raised me up in Christ!

Love, Joan

The place to be on Nov. 20 is Our Saviour’s!

Our Saviour’s Commitment Sunday will be November 20. We will celebrate with food and festivities. Sign up and bring your favorite dish to share with others as we honor Our Lord with His gifts.

Susan Remshardt,
God’s word and our hands
We’ll get it done!



ster, a drama critic who must deal with his crazy, homicidal family and local police in Brooklyn, NY, as he debates whether to go through with his recent promise to marry the woman he loves. His family includes two spinster aunts who have taken to murdering lonely old men by poisoning them with a glass of home-made wine laced with arsenic, strychnine, and “just a pinch” of cyanide; a brother who believes he is Teddy Roosevelt and digs locks for the Panama Canal in the cellar of the Brewster home (which then serve as graves for the aunts’ victims); and a murderous brother who has received plastic surgery performed by an alcoholic accomplice, Dr. Einstein, to conceal his identity and now looks like a horror-film actor.

Reserve your tickets now.

THEATER AT SOUTHEASTERN

ARSENIC AND OLD LACE

Dinner Theatre—\$30.00
by Joseph Kesselring
Directed by Dr. Aaron Adair
November 17-19, 2011
Visual and Performing Arts Center
Arsenic and Old Lace is a comedy revolving around Mortimer Brew-

Friday, November 4
11 a.m.

Brandon Burnette will be presenting “The Administration of Indian Affairs from 1775-1930s” for the Native American Symposium at the Southeastern Library.

Everyone is invited.

LOAVES & FISHES

Our Saviour's will be manning the Loaves & Fishes Store on November 1, 2 & 3rd. Workers are needed from 2-3 p.m. Please contact Mary Slice (924-5998) to let her know when you can volunteer.

Our October donations were 21 packages of biscuit mix, 3 cans of Spam, 5 assorted muffin mixes and 7 bibles. Our goal was 40 packages of biscuit mix of which we fell short. In fact, in 2011, we have only met our goal two months. We will continue to provide **Biscuit Mix** in Nov. and Dec. Let's surpass our goal in those two months.

As you shop for non-perishable food items for the United Way Food Drive, please also pick up **BISCUIT MIX** and place in the Loaves & Fishes basket in the narthex. When specific food items run low and are not donated, the Loaves & Fishes organization must purchase the needed food. Let's do OUR SAVIOUR'S part to keep the shelves full!

THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS

Our Saviour's members who have Thrivent Choice Dollars available to them have designated from Jan., 2011 through Sept. 8, 2011 a total of \$1570.00 to Our Saviour's Lutheran Church. More dollars could be designated as the Sept. and Dec. Choice Dollars available to Thrivent members are not included in the above figure.

Choice dollars have replaced the "Care in Congregation" funds previously offered by Thrivent. Those funds amounted to no more than \$1300.00 a year and you had to have a fund raiser to receive it.

With Choice Dollars, a Thrivent member who has insurance, annuities, etc. with Thrivent or serves as an officer of a chapter receives quarterly Choice Dollars to donate to a Lutheran non-profit organization of their choice. Sounds like a good deal! For more information contact Mary Slice.

A PARTY IS COMING!

Yes, there will be a Women of the ELCA Christmas Party this year! Details are currently being discussed. Watch for information in the bulletin and the Dec. newsletter.

ADVENT SOUP SUPPERS

The youth of Our Saviour's will be hosting the Advent Soup Suppers this year. The first Soup Supper is on Nov. 30 followed by Dec. 7, 14 & 21st.

A freewill offering will go toward their trip to the National Youth Gathering next July in New Orleans.

Let's also support our youth by signing up to bring soup, bread or dessert. Drinks will be furnished.

THANK YOU to everyone who adopted a Mosaic Resident and provided a Fall Treat Bag for them. The bags, along with those from Trinity, Sherman, were delivered to the Mosaic office on Oct. 17th. The Mosaic staff was excited to see the bags and were very thankful for the generosity of our members. I know the bags will put a **BIG SMILE** on the resident's faces. Hopefully we can "do it again" next year.

A LITTLE THANKGIVING HUMOR

Little Johnny and his family were having Thanksgiving dinner at his Grandmother's house. Everyone was seated around the table as the food was being served. When Little Johnny received his plate he started eating right away.

"Johnny! Please wait until we say our prayer." said his mother. "I don't need to," the boy replied. "Of course, you do," his mother insisted. "We always say a prayer before eating at our house." "That's at our house," Johnny explained. "But this is Grandma's house and she knows how to cook."