

JANUARY 2012

## PASTOR'S CORNER

Dear Friends,

As I am sure you have noticed, we are in a new year which, if we allow it, can also bring new opportunities into our lives. This is a time in the year when individuals may make resolutions for themselves. These resolutions generally deal with changes that we want to make in our personal lives.

A top ten resolution list that I came across had:

1. Spend more time with family and friends
2. Fit in fitness
3. Tame the bulge
4. Quit smoking
5. Enjoy life more
6. Quit drinking
7. Get out of debt
8. Learn something new
9. Help others
10. Get organized

If you are like me, some of these may look very familiar. I have thought about several of them. Its just that I never really seriously worked on (m)any of them!

As a congregation this is also a time for new opportunities which may or may not include resolutions. Plans have been made to have a potential candidate for your new pastor to be with us for a "meet and greet." This will

be a time when he will preach at a worship service and you will have the opportunity to talk with him. He will also have the opportunity to get to know you. In this way both Our Saviour's and the pastor will have a chance to see what one another's skills and needs are and whether this is a good fit for both of you. Throughout this weekend the Holy Spirit will be present and active to lead both sides in assessing where God is leading you in your ministry.

Helpful congregational resolutions would be to pray that God will be present not only when this pastor is with us but also throughout the year in our ministry as we seek to find in what new ways God would have us be working among the people of Durant. Also, in what ways can we invite people to join us in ministry here? It was wonderful to have a full church Christmas Eve. How can we invite some of those people to return on a regular basis to worship and serve the Lord with us? What other resolutions can you come up for us as we serve our Lord in this new year?

In Christ,

Charles Meyer, Pastor

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

**5 Kevin Kusch  
13 Taylor Fox  
14 Randall Phelps  
19 Charlie Johnson  
23 Maya Phelps  
24 Sean Corbin  
28 Alex Poppe  
30 Maci Remshardt**

### LOAVES & FISHES

In December, Our Saviour's members donated 16 regular size packages of Biscuit Mix, 2 large boxes of Biscuit Mix and 1 extra large box of Biscuit Mix, 5 miscellaneous items and 4 bibles/ religious books.

Our food item for January, February and March is **PEANUT BUTTER**. Our goal is 40 jars of **PEANUT BUTTER** each month.

Our Saviour's will man the store Feb. 7-9 from 2-3 pm. Workers are needed. Contact Mary Slice to volunteer.

# CHURCH COUNCIL NOTES

\*Council conducted a telephone interview with the pastoral candidate recommended by the call committee on 11/20/11. A motion carried to have the candidate visit and preach some time in January.

\*John Slice presented a short program regarding the NT-NL DiscipleLife Alive! Initiative, which is a Vision of Mission. The goal is \$3 million dollars over a period of 3 years. This will be presented to the congregation during the month of February...final date TBD.

\*Confirmation classes will resume on Wednesday, 01/04/12.

**THE ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 29, 2012 IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE WORSHIP SERVICE. WE WILL BE HAVING A 5TH SUNDAY FIESTA LUNCH FOLLOWING THE MEETING.**

\*A motion carried to purchase a small TV with the service being broadcast on it so those having to step out of the service with an upset child can continue to take part in the worship service.

\*The Annual Congregational meeting is scheduled for 01/29/12.

Kevin Kusch has agreed to continue on as Fellowship chair/Vice President. The positions open are Secretary and Education chair (each is a 2 year term) and the Ministries chair will be for only 1 year to complete the prior term.

Paige Poppe, Secretary

“Remember that January is the eraser that God uses to provide a new beginning.”  
Author Unknown

**PASTORAL CANDIDATE WILL PREACH ON JANUARY 15**

“Going to church doesn’t make you a Christian anymore than standing in a garage makes you a car.”  
Author Unknown

## BROWN BAG BIBLE STUDY

Brown Bag Bible Study will meet on Tuesday, January 17 in the Fellowship Hall at 11:30 a.m.

Our session “Beyond the Boundaries” is based on Mark 6:30-7:37.

As we move into the middle section of Mark’s Gospel, even more is revealed about who Jesus is in relationship to God. This session explores Jesus’ power over hunger, storm, the demons, and infir-

mity. His travels will also take him far from home and open up discussion of Jesus’ relationship to people beyond Israel.

Everyone is invited to join the discussion. Men, women and guests are welcomed. Come whenever you can and stay for however long you are able. There’s a chair available with your name written on it. Bring your lunch and join us.

## WORSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

The Worship Committee decided in 2011 to only meet before the "seasons" of the church year.

On July 1, 2011 Sean Jones resigned from the position of Music Director and Marilyn Comer, the Worship Committee Chair, assumed the position of Worship Coordinator.

Since Sean's resignation left the church without an organist Marilyn sought other avenues. Sally Pickens was hired to play piano part time. Nate Lamb who plays the guitar and Paige Poppe, soloist, play and sing once or twice a month. Marilyn Comer and Evelyn Engel fill

### CALL COMMITTEE NEWS

The Call Committee has invited a pastor to visit Our Saviour's on January 13-16. The pastor will preach on Sunday, January 15. Pastor Meyer will assist with the service.

Depending on the pastor's travel schedule, a dinner will be held either following the Sunday worship service on Jan. 15 or on Saturday evening, January 14. Details will follow.

At this time, a congregational vote to extend a call will be held at the annual meeting on January 29.

in as needed. The search for other musicians continues.

The liturgy and hymns are chosen around the abilities and musical preference of the accompanist.

Some repair work has been done on the organ with a new battery installed. Other issues with the organ were found that cannot be fixed.

A processional cross was presented to Our Saviour's by Marilyn Comer from the Dan Comer Memorial Fund.

Evelyn Engel,  
Worship Committee Rep.

## GIRL'S NIGHT OUT—WOMEN OF THE ELCA

Girl's Night Out is currently in a stage of redevelopment for 2012. Recently the women of Our Saviour's were asked to give feedback on how often they would like to meet. The consensus was to meet on a quarterly basis instead of monthly.

New officer's have yet to be elected so until such time as an election can be held, either at the first quarterly event or at a special called meeting, the current slate of officer's will continue in office.

Details for the first quarterly meeting will be announced by Evelyn Engel or Rhonda Collier, current co-coordinators.

Projects for 2012 were voted upon at the Dec. meeting. Additional projects/events can be added to the list as needed.

If you feel "called" and would be "willing" to hold an office in Women of the ELCA, pick up the phone and contact Evelyn or Rhonda today.

## WESLEY CENTER STUDENT LUNCH

Our Saviour's is hosting the Wesley Center Student Lunch on Thursday, January 26. We plan to serve around 70 very hungry students.

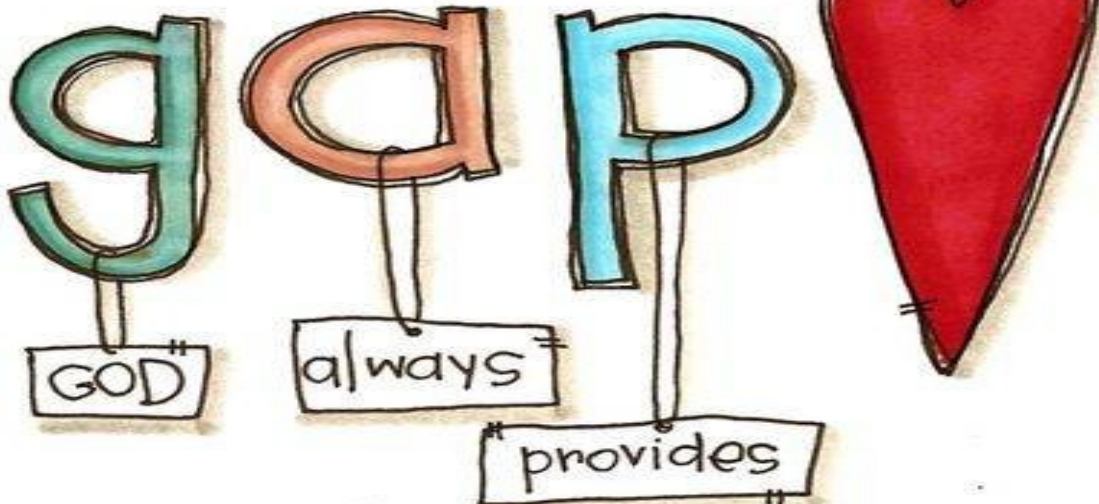
Donations of food such as salad, vegetable, dessert or money to help purchase the necessary food items to make the Cheesy Chicken Casserole or food not donated is needed.

**Thank you to all those who donated food and their time for the Advent Soup Suppers and for all the monetary support for LYO.**

**Our Saviour's LYO**

Volunteers to help set up, serve and clean up are needed from 10:30 am -1:30 pm. Please let Mary Slice know how you can help in this ministry to the students at Southeastern State University by calling her at 580-924-5998. or email okslice@att.net.

when you are in a "rut" ..  
 when it seems too hard ..  
 when you feel like you are at the end of your hope ..  
 when you have fallen & you can't get up ..  
 Remember that if you are in a "Gap" ...



[www.homegrownhospitality.typepad.com](http://www.homegrownhospitality.typepad.com)

Heavenly Father; I come to you as humble as I know how. I confess my sins, those known & unknown. Lord, you know that I am not perfect & I fall short every day of my life.

I just want to take time out in this New Year to say Thank You. Thank You for your Mercy. **I have more bills than money but thank you for my home, car, food, life and everything I do have.**

I realize that life is full of trials & tribulations but Thank You for not putting more on me than I can bear. Amen.