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Message from Pastor Craig...

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Happy new year in the church calendar, this Sunday (November 27).

Happy new year, starting with hope, the theme of the first Sunday in Advent, the season that starts the church calendar.

Happy new year, starting with Advent, a season of hope, based on how God has come, comes, and will come, bringing peace (2nd Sunday in Advent), joy (3rd) and love (4th).

Happy new year, preparing to go into 2012 with faith that God is with us, in the miraculous birth we celebrate at Christmas (starts December 24). The birth of Jesus, which is the advent of Emmanuel (which means "God with us"), promised by Isaiah 2,700 years ago.

Happy new year, being renewed in, and by, the life of Jesus, through Epiphany, Lent, Easter and Pentecost.

- Epiphany (starts January 6), being enlightened by the newness of what has appeared for all people in Jesus, whose birth we celebrated at Christmas.
- Lent (in 2012, starts February 22), being deepened in the teachings of Jesus, all the way up to his teaching on the cross.
- Easter (in 2012, starts April 8), being lifted by Jesus' rising from the dead.
- Pentecost (in 2012, starts May 27), being empowered by the Holy Spirit Jesus now pours out from the Father.

Happy new year, being part of all of this at Our Saviour Lutheran Church.

Happy new year for all of us who have

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been part of this in past years, part of God using OSLC to show the world His wisdom, love and power by the way we are renewed, and work together with each other in the grace and truth of God we have received in Jesus.

Happy new year for us, considering the possibilities of what God is presenting to us in the new people amongst us, of all ages, with their gifts and needs and ideas and connections to those who are not yet part of what God is doing in Jesus.

Happy new year for me, having considered two different calls to serve as a Pastor elsewhere, and heard from so many of you, and God, that what we are doing together is just beginning.
Happy new year!

Ps...Here is a website you can see the readings that are assigned for each Sunday in the church calendar.

http://www.yaag.org/new_index.php5

Jesus and the Basics of Faith

A 6 session course for seeking answers or refreshment.

Refreshment
.. in joy, hope, peace, love.

Answers
.. about the existence of evil,
the possibility of a good God,
the judgment of churches,
the questions you, and others have.

Many people don't want to know about religion, but are curious about faith.

Many people aren't interested in the Christian Church, but are open to Jesus.

Come for refreshment and/or answers for yourself, or someone you care about.

Come, by yourself, or bring someone seeking answers or refreshment.

Starts the week of January 9

You can help shape this course.

You can help shape the content.
Tell Pastor Craig your questions about Jesus and faith.

Tell him your thoughts about what you have learned, that you wish you would have been told from the beginning.

Tell him your thoughts about what the Christian Church seems to be missing in connecting with people you know who do not have faith in God.

Write him a note, email him, speak to him, whatever you think it would be good for him to know as he prepares this course.

You can help shape the timing.
If you think you would like to take this course, to renew, refresh or review the basics of faith, sign up on the bulletin board.

You can help shape the outcome.
Pray for God's leading and guiding of the preparations, and the people to take part in this. If someone comes to mind you think this would be a good experience for, pray for them, ask God to prepare them for this, and to give you what you need to invite them.

CHURCH EXTENSION FUND NEWS

Christmas is coming and a great idea for your children/grandchildren/godchildren is an investment in CEF. This could be a tool to teaching kids about saving as well as helping their church to build facilities for spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ.

You are free to make either a lump sum investment in trust for the child or to open a K.I.D.S. account whereby the child or you purchase stamps for 25c each and paste them into a booklet provided.

Once the booklet is completed, \$25.00 is invested in a K.I.D.S. account which can be added to by completing another booklet or by a lump sum investment.

By the way, K.I.D.S. stands for Kids Into Discipleship and Stewardship. Cool, eh?
Keep CEF in your Christmas plans for your family.

For more information see Carol Hagel any Sunday after service or call her at 947-9415.
Make your money work for you AND your church.



ALPHA 2011 UPDATE:

We are in the middle of our Alpha course and it is an amazing group of people who gather every Monday night.

Our pot lucks are scrumptious, the lessons are so interesting and the discussions are full of questions, opinions, laughter and contemplation. We always go home with some little “gem” that has been stirred up in our minds, something to think about and ponder for the week.

We want to thank especially the ladies in our church family who have cooked such wonderful meals for us. They arrive with steaming casseroles brimming with goodness! Thank you for your faithful service to Alpha. Also thanks to Pastor and Donna for joining us for dinner every Monday. And a special thank you to Johanna and Henri for all the work they do in set up and clean up - we so appreciate you!

Our ‘Holy Spirit’ weekend is coming up shortly, Nov 18-19. Saturday will be spent at Josey’s, where we will continue our studies and take part in a great lunch prepared by Paul Edelenbos (with Lois’ assistance of course). We know that everyone will leave there with a special touch from God.

After that weekend we have several more Monday nights and it ends with a Christmas dinner and celebration on December 12th.

Alpha is a special time together and we feel fortunate to have had the opportunity to offer it to OSL this year. Thank God for all His blessings as we learn more about Him through Alpha!

Josey Palleson (and the team)



SOON THE MESSIAH WILL COME!

“When will the Messiah come?”

“How long Lord must we wait?”

“Children of Israel, listen up.

The Lord, your God, has a message for you:”

***“For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given,...”***



The above words come from the Nativity play, “Soon The Messiah Will Come”, to be presented on December 4th, during the worship service. The Israelites are deeply longing for the coming of the promised Messiah. When the prophet Isaiah gives them the message that a child is to be born, their hopes are stirred that deliverance is soon at hand.

“The Messiah! The Messiah!”

However, that is not the case. Many hundreds of years pass by.

And then prophesied events unfold.

“Is this child truly the Messiah?”

Come on out on December 4th and see!

16 children and youth, 2 young adults, and 17 choir members, will all be participating in presenting this message of Hope.

9th Annual “Tree of Plenty”

It's time again to share our blessings for Christmas. Can you believe that it is the 9th annual “Tree of Plenty”? Our Saviour Lutheran has been so very generous over the years and I know that this year will not be any different.

Once again the tree will be covered with paper ornaments with a food item or \$\$ donation on the back. Please take as many as you would like. Place the food under the tree the following Sunday; if it is a \$\$ donation, please put into an envelope and label with “Tree of Plenty” and place in the plate at offering time. The last day for the “tree” donations will be December 18th.

Also, if you have any store points that could be used for a turkey, please talk to me about that. You can either bring in the turkey on the last day, or just give me the certificate.

The items and \$\$ are used to make very special Christmas hampers for families who need a little extra help at this time of the year. Some are for families in our own congregation, and some will be for people that you know about – perhaps a friend or family member, or even a stranger that you know of who needs some extra love and warmth. *If you have someone in mind to receive one of these hampers, please tell pastor or one of the elders and we will be sure to include them.*

The hampers are full of items to make a special Christmas dinner, including a turkey, fresh veggies, candles and treats for the kids. They are delivered by the elders about December 21st and are always received with joy and thanksgiving. Thank you for your part in making this year's “Tree of Plenty” a wonderful success! God bless you in your giving!

Susan Duncan 586-5119



You are Invited to...
Our Saviour Lutheran Church
Christmas Party
 Hosted by the Youth!
December 17th 2011 from 1-4pm
 Please join the Youth for an afternoon
 of **Coffee, Tea, baked goodies and**
fellowship.



A big **THANK YOU** to all who participated in our Operation Christmas Child fundraiser!!! Together we filled a total of **27 boxes!!**

Hey Kids!

Remember at VBS how we collected funds to purchase malaria shots and nets, and also to purchase chickens and goats, for families in need in Africa?

Well, we heard back from one of the organizations already, LWR, saying a BIG THANKYOU, and they sent us the following pictures. I thought you would be interested in seeing them. (The letter is posted on the bulletin board in the hallway.)



A FLOCK OF CHICKENS

Whether raised as fryers or laying hens, a flock of Chickens provides an important source of protein and a way for families to generate income.



A PAIR OF GOATS

Giving a pair of goats is a gift that gives in many ways. Goats provide milk for drinking, manure for gardens, and meat for eating. The gift continues to grow as the goats reproduce and multiple.



ARM CHAIR TRAVELLERS... SCHEDULE OF TRAVEL LOGS



Well, what a fun evening it was to travel to Ecuador and the Galapagos at Kathy's house. 28 people attended and took the journey so we feel that this type of event is of interest to our church community. It was a lot of fun to share in fellowship together. Here is a schedule of the upcoming travel logs so that you can mark them on your calendar.

Thursday, Dec 1, Hawaiian Islands, Vanuatu, New Caledonia, Australia and New Zealand, hosted by Carol Hagel (& Frank Liepe), at Our Saviour Church, 6:45-8:30

Friday January 6, 2012, Belize, hosted by Cody Tupper at Our Saviour Church, 6:45-8:30

Upcoming Destinations include: Manchu Picchu & the Amazon, Italy and the Mediterranean, Norway and a few other spots. Please let Kathy or Doreen know if you have a trip you could share, across Canada, or a destination in the United States or Northwest, all are welcome.

-Kathy Bender & Doreen Hagedorn

Fall BCMBS Update.....

In hiring a new Office Administrator, having the Executive Director travelling for most of October and November, while leading 3 mission trips has kept the fall season quite busy for us at the BC Mission Boat Society.



At the beginning of the fall season, we had Josh and Janelle Patterson from Dallas, Texas come out from Sept 10-17th to join both Marcus and Jessica on a mission trip to Klemtu. This trip was filled with reconnecting with those in Klemtu through home visits, 4 worship nights, sports at the gym with youth and adults, a Ladies Spa Night event put on by the girls and a Men's Bible study put on by the guys. The previous mission team in August had taken a guitar, given by Kathy Bender, for one of the youth.

Jessica was able to connect with her through the guitar and together, lead music for 2 of the worship nights in September.

October was Marcus' travelling month. From conferences and teaching to sneaking in a trip to Ehattesaht at the end of the month, he did it all and is still around to share the story! To start October off, Marcus traveled with Pastor Craig to the BC Church Worker's Conference from Oct 3-6 where he was able to lead devotion with the group as well as provide an update on the ministry of the BCMBS with other LCC

pastors and church workers. Then, from Oct 14-15th, he travelled to Vancouver, where he spoke on ministry to First Nation Communities at the Regional Outreach Conference, hosted by Lutheran Hour Ministries. From Oct 17-21th, Marcus travelled to Alberta and taught at Canadian Lutheran Bible Institute, teaching a course called, *Ministry Among the Marginalized* to the team that would be travelling with him to Klemtu from Nov 19-26th.

By the end of October, both he and Jessica took a trip to Ehattesaht from Oct 30-Nov 1st. They were able to visit with and share a meal with a couple and their baby the evening they arrived. They held a Sing-A-Long event later that evening, which had about 17 participants including adults, youth and children! On Halloween, they were both able to do some visiting in the morning and were asked if the BCMBS would be interested in bringing a team in the future to help with a cleanup project the community would like to do. They were both able to help out at the school Halloween party, where they guest judged a costume contest and helped out at the party happening at youth center, followed by some trick or treating with the children, youth and adults. This was all wrapped-up with a fantastic fireworks display provided by the community.

Look for an update on the November CLBI mission trip to Klemtu in the next newsletter as well as more stories and updates in our latest edition of, *The Compass!*

YOUTH & the VANCOUVER INNER CITY MISSION WEEKEND



This past weekend, from November 18-20th Mattea, Gabi, Pastor Craig, Donna and myself travelled to the mainland to join forces with Walnut Grove Lutheran Church for their semi-annual Inner City Service Event. Saturday morning, the large group of us travelled to Oppenheimer Park in downtown Vancouver, an area filled with people who were homeless, cold and hungry.

We all worked wonderfully together as we handed out clothing, warm soup, hot dogs, warm drinks, bags of goodies and we were able to love them as Jesus did and have conversations with them. Some of the conversations were even about their faith or allowed us to share about God's love for them. Here is what our youth, Gabi and Mattea, had to say about the experience....

"...The adventure I had was amazing because my friends and I were helping the homeless. One woman had lost a lot of things [including] her father a year ago, also her son. She lives in a home with practically nothing in it, but shortly after [moving] she met a man and got engaged. She has a ride to Edmonton to meet her other son that she left behind. She was so grateful for the food we gave her and I am glad she has a chance to [leave] Vancouver and make her life better. This was an adventure I will never forget."

- Gabi Courtorielle, age 14

"Going to Inner City Vancouver was not only a great experience, but also a big eye opener. My personal experience on this trip was really good, I quite enjoyed it and hope to do more stuff like this in the future." - Mattea Koebernick, age 15

We were able to grow together both as a large group, but also as a small group from OSLC, doing something that I believe, is the kind of thing Jesus would be doing if he walked the earth today. Our group was able to form some real bonds with the Walnut Grove youth group as well and we look forward to teaming up with them in the future! It was an awesome opportunity to just love people and to provide them with basic necessities that we sometimes take for granted on a daily basis. You never know how something as simple as giving someone a bowl of soup and a hug can have such a huge impact!



Elections and Budget Decisions

Voter's meeting December 11



- **Elections ... nominations for Church Council are welcomed.** The positions of Vice President and Recording Secretary are currently open, and it would be great to have another trustee. All the current members of Council will let their names stand, but additional nominations are always welcome. Talk to Brian Hagedorn or Pastor if interested.
- **Budget Decisions ... are made by the voters.** Having sought your ideas on different things we might consider, we now seek God's will on this. Pray for God's guidance in advance, and come on the day to listen, and offer your thoughts. As a congregation of people who, through Jesus, have faith in God's goodness, come and be part of helping us decide the good works God has prepared for us to do in 2012.

UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

Wednesday, November 30.....Advent service at 7pm
 Sunday, December 4.....10am Worship with Nativity Play, Sunday school kids and more!
 Wednesday, December 7.....Advent service at 7pm
 Sunday, December 11..... Voter's meeting after worship at 11:30am
 Wednesday, December 14..... Advent service at 7pm
 Saturday, December 24.....Christmas Eve worship with Carols and Candlelight at 7 pm
 Sunday, December 25.....Christmas Day worship with Carols and Communion at 10 am

