



OUR SAVIOUR LUTHERAN CHURCH

SUMMER 2009

PASTOR'S MESSAGE



wackiness of living in a place where fish fly .. badly .. knowing someone would come along later and wonder.

"How on earth did a fish end up here? ... Strange."

Pastor says ...

Have you seen fish fly? The oddness of such an event has made Pike Place Fish Market in Seattle a "must see." Admittedly, the fish don't have much to say about flying across the aisle between the vendors, but the effort required for fish to fly still draws crowds.

I was surprised by flying salmon in French Creek Bay last fall. It took my brain a few times to recognize the flash above the water, and I'm not sure I would have, but for the fishermen in their pontoon boats. As the out of water experiences of the salmon inspired the fishermen to jostle for strategic positions in the bay, I found myself thinking of other salmon I have watched fly over absurdly high falls on their way to die, simply for the promise of bringing new life into the world. Watching fish fly can be inspiring.

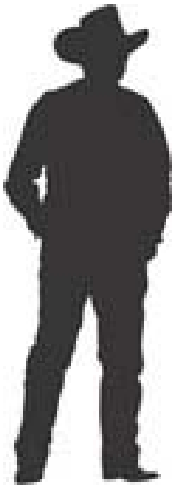
It takes a lot of effort for a fish to fly. Ask an eagle. One of the more bizarre flying fish I've seen, or more accurately, heard, was on a walk in the Okanagan. I think I heard the "thwud" (a thud with a touch of wack – stay tuned, you'll get it) before my brain registered seeing anything. I walked over to where I thought I had seen movement, and there was a good sized fish (please, please ask me how big it was!), weakly flicking its tail. I felt bad for the fish (not so much the eagle), and if I had been by the water I would have put it in, but I was too far from the lake for that. So, I left it there, enjoying the

It may be common to see fish fly, but it is always strange. The frequency may cause some people no longer to see it as interesting or inspirational, but for the fish, it never comes easily. With much effort, it may actually pull it off, but the highest and longest flights are only done with the aid of others. These others do not usually have the fish's best interests in mind.

Have you been a flying fish? I think it's common, so common, we don't realize how strange it is. The hopes and concerns we have for our families, workplaces, community organizations, and churches can move us to push ourselves, or be pushed, to work very hard at doing something we really aren't very good at. This is strange to God's way. God's way is to gift us, and call us to faithfulness with the gifts we have. We are made new through the risen Jesus, created for good works God prepared beforehand for us to walk around in (Ephesians 2:10 ESV). A simple way to arrive at the good works we can walk around or go through life doing, is to ask .. what am I good at .. what are we good at?

Sometimes God does call us to do something we aren't good at. A donkey isn't particularly gifted at speaking, yet once God found a donkey was all He had to get Balaam to listen (Numbers 22). If you feel like God is calling you to be a flying fish, may you remember Balaam's donkey,

and ask God to help you receive the strange gift He is giving you.



NEWS FROM COUNCIL PRESIDENT – Hilton Zutz

Hello and God's Blessings to All. In the last few months we really don't have too much to talk about, and when our work is solving problems that can be a good thing. Probably the most talked about is our financial situation. If you think back a few months ago you will remember that we had a shortage of income to cover the last year's expenses. In the past we would simply carry on with 'Crisis Management' and do what we could to keep the wolf from the door. However, this year we thought that it would be prudent to find out how this happened and if there was anything that we could do about it. In retrospect, it was more than good luck to have some members of the Church Council that were so insightful to see the need for a Task Force that would research all of the 'why' and a little bit of 'how'. Well, they have completed their work and we appreciate how well they did it because now we know that the council has done all that they can. You will hear more about this report in the near future.

Having had such a thorough look at last year's budget gave us cause to have a close look at this year's finance with some concerns. As it is we are, again, not seeing the offerings that are needed to cover the expenses but not by much. In discussion, we came up with several ways to approach the problem. In 'Plan A', we could resolve the problem if each of us would recognize our responsibility and make a small increase to our offerings. But we also recognize that

this would be a temporary solution with no guarantee that it would not happen again in the future. Again, we are so lucky that we have Church Council members who understand finance, because they have an innovative solution in 'Plan B' that will reduce our budget expenses, in the future, by about 15%. You will also hear more about this in the near future.

We also discussed an upcoming BBQ for Mission Sponsorship. It is intended to raise money to help people who would like to ride the Mission Boat but do not have the money needed. We thank Jeanette Domes for making the arrangements for the feast, and again, you will hear more about this in the near future.

For the remainder of the items that were raised, we did not have enough council members or enough information to properly dispose of them.

What happened to VBS?

VBS can be a very valuable ministry. For many years people in the area have seen OSLC's VBS this way. When we were house hunting in March 2007 our realtor, who is not a church goer of any sort, identified OSLC as having "a very successful VBS." This heritage was seen this Spring in a number of people from OSLC who were willing to help with VBS this summer, recognizing its value, but who did not feel gifted for working directly with children. Some used to, but gravity and time have made the task of keeping up to a bunch of kids something they feel (in their bones and joints as well as between their temples) they can no longer do. Others have never felt working directly with children is something they are good at. We also had most of what we needed in key leadership positions, but what we were lacking was people who feel gifted and called for working with children, who could commit to helping here this summer.

What happened to VBS at OSLC for the summer of 2009? Recognizing the value of this ministry, and the importance of children having people working with them who love doing so, we concluded that taking a year off was in the best

interests of: 1) the children, 2) the people who were willing to commit but would likely have to work way beyond their capacity to pull it off, and 3) the reputation of OSLC. What also happened is that OSLC's great experience with VBS resulted in some creative thoughts to consider.

The need to consider different ways to do VBS is much bigger than OSLC's ability to get volunteers. Earlier this Spring a parent in the congregation suggested the way we do VBS needs to change because the pattern of families in the area has changed. The old pattern of one parent working to support a two parent 2 ½ child family has been replaced with single working parent or two working parent families. To arrange for their children to come to VBS requires changing day care arrangements and getting rides arranged that would not normally be necessary. The suggestion was to go to a full day VBS, perhaps trialing it this year with a 3 day period (Tue to Thu). This proposal received no feedback. Based on people's sense of what they could do for a half day VBS, I suspect the thought of a full day may have been overwhelming. Was it? Is it for you?

A number of people at OSLC are committed to doing a quality VBS in a way that is not overwhelming. Taking a Sabbath from VBS this year is part of this, as it may be just what is needed for a number of people to feel ready to recommit to following their passion and love for working with children at VBS in the summer of 2010. Another good thing that comes from taking a Sabbath, is it can inspire thinking about how the same thing can be done in a totally different way. I have already heard a number. Doreen Hagedorn shared one at the ministerial meeting in May. The idea? That congregations in the ministerial consider reaching out to the community by working together to do a VBS. Doreen will be inviting interested people from all local congregations to a discussion about his in January. I am sure a number of you would like to be part of this discussion.

OSLC is not alone is facing the challenge of wanting to do a quality VBS. Parksville Baptist has taken a rest from VBS this year, and at the ministerial meeting in May, a number of other churches indicated the difficulty of finding volunteers is the reason they don't do VBS. In a conversation after the ministerial meeting, one of the local ministers told me Doreen's suggestion was very much like something he was involved with in Vancouver, with one difference. The

difference? To address the needs of local families they did it as a full day, so parents could drop off their kids on the way to work, and pick them up after. Interesting. I can't wait to see what happens in 2010. How about you?



ELDERS' SLATE -

By Lorne Dyke

Summer has arrived! We can see the Glory of Gods creation as we look about us.

During some part of summer each year we usually hold VBS. This year it has been decided that the gifts of volunteers needed to hold such an event was not present in our congregation. Therefore this year VBS will not be held but we ask for your prayers that next year God would bless us with the gifted volunteers and many eager children.

It is our intention that we support the mission boat by having potluck suppers on Friday evenings as they send new volunteers out in the field. After supper the mission boat group will have orientation, this leaves the rest of us to support each other in fellowship and fun with many games. Please come and support our team as the venture up the coast in Gods great mission. Pastor Craig will be holding an interesting bible study for three weeks in June. The topic will be on creation vs. evolution and should prove to be lively.

On Sunday, June 21st the mission boat staff will lead the service. We request that many attend to bless the B.C. Mission Boat in their travels.

Please use the new yellow Prayer request forms in the pews for you're your prayer request. They will be collected before prayer time.

Please note that we will go to our regular summer service times of 9:30am beginning July 5th.

As we spend the summer traveling or staying at home entertaining guest we might reflect on Paul's message in 1 Corinthians 2:4, 5

My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words but with a

demonstration of The Spirits power, so that your faith might not rest on Men's wisdom, but on God's power.

TREASURER'S REPORT



MAY 2009	2009 to Date
Offerings \$12,178.13	\$59,720.35
Expenses \$11,300.54	\$59,921.77
Income/Loss \$877.59	\$(201.42)

Information provided by
Johanna Rekers

**SALMON & BURGERS
Sponsorship BARBECUE -
Invitation
Sunday, June 14, 12:00 pm --
right after church**

We encourage everyone to come! & also, invite your friends!!
Donations will be used to sponsor BC Mission Boat volunteers from "our congregation" this summer and during the year.
Please make cheques to OSLC.

General BC Mission Boat support is welcomed at any time as well. Thank you for your help through donations and through use of the grocery certificates.



AN INVITATION TO ALL THE LADIES

You are "Spa-zatively Special" and are invited to a Spa Weekend being planned and held at Josey's place in Qualicum Beach July 24-26. (You can decide if you'd like to sleep at your home or at Josey's and then if you want to attend for part or the entire weekend.) This will be a weekend for rest, relaxation and building friendships. The cost for the weekend will be no more than \$25.00 per person plus the costs of any spa appointments that you'd like to participate with. All the specific details are not quite worked out but you can check the church bulletin board for more and updated information as the time gets closer.



SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School will continue through June 21st, take a break for the summer, then start up again September 13th. Thank you to Jutta, Susan, Rhonda, Doreen, Jeanette, Lila, Heather and Donna for serving as teachers this past year.

LWML

After 32 years as Lutheran Womens Missionary League (LWML) we have decided to make some changes. We will no longer be apart of the society of Canada. We have found it difficult to find a president due to health and the age of our group.

This does not mean that we will cease to be a Women's Group, but just not affiliated with the LWML. As we usually take a break during the summer months we will meet again as per usual the second Wednesday of September at 1pm.

We would like to extend an invitation to every lady of the congregation to join us this fall with new ideas and activities and come up with a direction for the group to proceed with.

Your Sister in Christ, Helga Becker

Fun Fridays for the summer!

Good food, good friends, good guests, good play ... good fun! You can count on it happening here at OSLC for 7 Friday nights this summer. Since we are not doing VBS, a number of us felt we wanted to find another way of being involved with reaching out to kids for the summer of 2009. So ... here is a really simple way every person at OSLC can be. Friday nights from June 26 to August 14 we will host a family style potluck dinner for the staff and volunteers assembling to go out for a week on the BC Mission Boat. How is this kid related? Well, putting on a VBS in a community or two is one of the main scheduled events for the people who go out on the boat each week. Welcoming and encouraging these people with one of OSLC's great potlucks, and its gift for hospitality, will be a real boost for all, and especially for those who are coming for their first week on the boat, and are not sure

what they will experience. Also, welcoming kids from our own congregation, and their friends, saying "Hi!" to them and playing some games after, will speak volumes to both the kids, and their parents, of how valuable we see each to be.

What will this look like? Each Friday night we will gather at 5:30 for a potluck dinner. We will bring our own plates from home so we don't have to spend time washing up after dinner, and we will make sure we have enough extra food (and plates) to host the 6 to 9 people going out on the Tyee-J. Over dinner we will visit with our guests, and at the end, have a prayer of encouragement for them. Following dinner we will take our plates and put them in a plastic bag (if you want, you can bring paper and then it would be a garbage bag), and the Mission Boat people will go off for orientation, and the rest of us can spend an hour or two with board card or activity games, or if it is nice, with bocci or croquet or baseball on our back lot. There is a sign up sheet to help make sure we will have enough food for our guests, and to volunteer to organize the game component, but you don't need to have signed up to come, just bring some food to share. The after dinner activity our first night (Friday June 26) will be to go down to French Creek Marina, spend some time exploring the Tyee-J, have a service of commissioning, and for those who want to stick around a little longer, watch the Tyee-J sail off for her first week of ministry in 2009. So ... come along for the first week, or any other week, or every week, for some special fun Friday nights this summer at OSLC.

CHURCH OFFICE NEWS

Worship time will change to 9:30 am on
July 5, 2009



Summer is Here!

I can't believe it's June already. The upstairs offices are just bubbling over with excitement and hectic schedules already. We are gearing up for eight weeks of boat based mission and a handful of land based mission trips to make one heck of an exciting summer for the BC Mission Boat!

Please mark your calendars for June 26 as this will be the day that we are hosting the boat commissioning service down at the French Creek Marina. Look for more information and details to come in the church bulletin.

If you have not met our new summer workers, you still have plenty of time. Josh and Kristen both join us from Concordia University in Edmonton, AB. They are super excited to be out here learning the new ropes and would love to be invited over for dinner and to make some more personal connections with the members of OSLC.

COOKIES ARE NEEDED

We are busy preparing for another busy summer of various mission trips! This year the BC Mission boat will be out for eight weeks instead of six. A very special part of our ministry is sharing coffee and cookies. Cookies are distributed at Kids Clubs, taken on home-visits and shared around the table on the boat. Please consider a donation of cookies to help open doors and hearts!

- containers for cookie storage

- Cookies can be placed in the church freezer and clearly marked

Cookie Information:

- Please list the ingredients of the cookies on the lid
- Ice Cream pails make great
- The boat departs June 27th, so delivery by June 19th would be ideal, but cookies can be dropped off up until July 17th.

Thank-you so much for your continued support of this unique ministry!

The BC Mission Boat Society Annual General Meeting will be held Monday, June 15, 5:00 - 6:00 pm at OSLC. All are invited to participate in active membership of the society, and can do so by sending a note of request, written or by email, to the Board of Directors, attn. to Secretary, Jeanette Domes. Membership gives opportunity at the AGM to nominate to and elect the board and executive, also to participate actively in the society. Current positions to be nominated are chair (1 year), vice-chair (2 years) and general board members. We welcome all who are interested, to become a member and to attend the AGM. Submit your interest in writing/ email to Jeanette Domes, Secretary, djdomes@shaw.ca or via the BCMB office.

**GROCERY CERTIFICATE SALES
continue.....**

in support for the BC Mission Boat

- Thrifty Foods Smilecards
- Save-On Food gift cards
- Quality Foods certificates

Try using the Cards & Certificates! This is such a benefit to the BC Mission Boat. So far we have raised about \$3000 since we began, in one year and 2 other churches are participating as well. This is so important, to continue providing funds for our year round outreach work.

We have been approved for **Thrifty Foods Smilecards** fundraiser for the next year until May 2010.

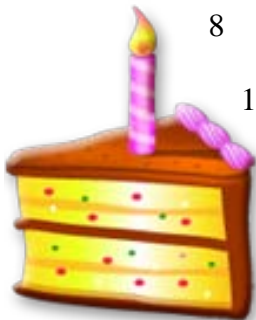
It is so EASY to use these Smilecards...we will just give you one (and record it) and you will use it by adding money (buying grocery dollars) at the Thrifty Foods store when you are shopping. You will "load the card" with any amount that you want, or that you plan to spend.

You can purchase the other stores' grocery cards/ certificates through a member selling them after church any Sunday, and through the church office (Bonnie) any weekday. Or contact Jeanette Domes. Please think of this when buying groceries, that an average of 6% of your grocery bill will be donated to the BC Mission Boat. It is easy, so needed, so appreciated!

SUMMER CELEBRATIONS

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- 6 Lisa Rosel
- 8 Alyssa Sommerfeld
- 11 Bonny Bell
- 13 Brian Hagedorn
- 14 Karen Bell
- 16 Joyce Stefiuk
- 16 Uta Pinnow
- 18 Sean Becker
- 20 June Zutz



- 23 Adam Hagedorn
- 23 Bonnie Perry

- 26 Mariel Flatla
- 25 Gary Carlson
- 29 Donna Tufts
- 29 Sarah Floyd

JULY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Kassandra Anderson
- 9 Marianne Connors
- 10 Johanna Rekers
- 10 Judy Pichichero
- 12 Charles McKinnon
- 13 Mabel Wallace
- 17 Millie Wayne
- 17 Joe Pinnow
- 17 Vivian Pastars
- 22 Jennie Jacobs
- 22 Joe Bochek
- 27 Donna Kazmiruk
- 28 Ben Sommerfeld

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Tasha Henriksson
- 4 Peter Hebert
- 12 Kenn Matwick
- 14 Ronald Silzer
- 18 Wayne Clearwater
- 19 Fred Gall
- 20 Katya Henriksson
- 28 Ellen Olson
- 28 Janet Sperber
- 30 Tim Colibaba
- 30 Bonalin Clearwater



JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

- 3 Andy and Charlene Pickard
- 12 Marc and Donna Kazmiruk
- 14 Jim and Coral Bell
- 17 Reg and Fe Coleman
- 22 Matthew and Tammy Koebernick

JULY ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Pastor Craig and Donna
- 5 Al and Vivian Pastars
- 5 Bonnie and Kenn Matwick
- 7 Allan and Donna McAskile

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

- 4 Ewald and Elfriede Sprung
- 14 Willy and Dorothy Bender
- 14 Jessica and Dan Lotspeich
- 16 Don and Wendy Punter
- 20 Paul and Lois Edelenbos
- 23 Henri and Johanna Rekers
- 26 Hagen and Sarah Becker
- 29 Brian and Ella Goldring
- 30 Brian and Doreen Hagedorn
- 30 Dave and Jeanette Domes

Please note: *The next Newsletter will be in September. If you have anything you would like to be included in the fall newsletter or items to be added to the monthly calendar, please email the church office at oslc@uniserve.com*

Wishing you a wonderful, safe, healthy and happy summer

Bonnie

