



# *Our Saviour Lutheran Church*

## *October 2009*



### **Strengthening our Christian Core** Core training is receiving a lot of attention in the area of personal fitness. Strengthening the

core muscles (basically the middle of your body) has been identified as having wide ranging benefits. Recently, one of our life long Lutherans reminded me about the benefits of another kind of core training: strengthening our understanding of core Christian teachings from a Lutheran perspective. I would love to offer a course like this, and it is the kind of thing the Spiritual Life Survey you will be asked to take later this month, could identify as being of great benefit to helping Our Saviour grow spiritually. On the other hand, the results of our survey may identify that having small groups, or a new service project, would be a better way for strengthening our Christian Core. So .. make sure you take the time to complete the Spiritual Life Survey at the end of this month. You will be guiding the direction of Our Saviour in doing so. Meanwhile, this Thanksgiving take time to celebrate and give thanks to God for the good you see in your life. It's another simple way to strengthen your Christian core, and bring joy to others too. May you be deeply richly blessed in God's unfathomable love for all people in Jesus! Pastor Craig



**NEWS FROM COUNCIL PRESIDENT – Hilton Zutz**

I would like to say 'Welcome Back' except that we have all been here all of the time, but we did start the Church Council Meetings after a short holiday this Summer. Our meeting on the 15<sup>th</sup> Sep was more of a meeting to get things started so there isn't that much exciting news. We did visit the need to have a Voter's Meeting to decide the worship time. The Elder's have undertaken to get in touch with some of the members to find out how we can make changes to meet the needs of the membership. The Board of Elders will make a suggestion in the form of a motion and allow the members to discuss and then vote on the motion. We also got an early start on the need for a Budget Committee to propose a budget for the next year and the need for a Nominating Committee to present a list of names to help elect the council for 2010. I would like to make a suggestion to all of the members of OSLC and that is to give some meaning to the coming Thanksgiving. In the past I have allowed Thanksgiving to come and go without giving any serious thought to what I should be thankful for. This year I think that I will make a list and it will probably start with;

- a good wife and a good life,
- a good church in a good country,
- then I think that I will be thankful for all of those people who make things happen in our church, those who volunteer to serve as council members. I have a lot of respect for our Church Council, they are a great bunch of guys.

Wow, I really do have a lot to be thankful for and I didn't even know it.



**ELDERS' SLATE -**  
Gary Carlson – on behalf of the Elders.

We have the REVEAL study coming up that will give us information on how to best channel the resources here at the church. Remember we would like everyone to be involved so that we get a true reading of the needs and direction for our congregation. It is a computer program that asks for input from

each of us. It is CONFIDENTIAL and names of the people doing the input are not recorded or identified in any manner. We need you to be involved in the survey.

It has been brought to the attention of the Elders that there is a need for more assistance with the Sunday School. If you feel you have the gifts to work with children and would like to help in this area please let Sunday School Superintendent Donna know.

It has become apparent to the Elders that the announcement time at the end of the service is getting longer and longer. Many of these announcements are matters that are on going and are already mentioned in the bulletin. If you have something that is NOT mentioned already in the bulletin and has some urgency that can not wait until the next bulletin we ask you to draw it to the attention of the duty Elder and discuss it with him. He will make a decision on the announcement. If it refers to an upcoming matter it maybe that an insert maybe a better choice as all the facts can be related. Please speak to Pastor Craig about any inserts. The Elders from time to time may draw your attention to something that is already in the bulletin to be sure you are aware of it. Please make use of the bulletin boards in the hallway and setup your soapbox in the fellowship room. Help the Elders keep the announcement time down and meaningful.

A concern that surfaced was that Diabetics maybe having trouble with the wine at the Lord's Supper during communion. The Elders would like to encourage anyone who is concerned about drinking from the individual glasses or the common cup that they touch the wafer of bread to the wine and therefore would only get a very small amount. This is called "tincture" and is a most acceptable practice that should eliminate any concerns for diabetics. If you still have a concern please discuss it with Pastor Craig. Remember we are just touching the wafer, not dunking donuts.

The directories for the congregation with the phone numbers and addresses has been

removed from the narthex but they are still available just ask Bonnie for a copy.

Gob Bless and have a great Day



## TREASURER'S REPORT

On Sundays we visit the House of our Father and meet our

family. Most people bring gifts and offerings, either monetary or they offer their talents in all kinds of other ways. This is how we show our love for one another. But sometimes these monetary offerings fall short of reality, after all the bills and the wages have to be paid.

First of all some simple facts, as stated in my report in the September Newsletter. Our finances fell short in the months of June, July and August. As a consequence, we are \$8,131.00 short so far this year. If this trend continues, by the end of the year we will have an estimated shortfall of \$10,000 to \$12,000.

In the June Voters meeting it was agreed to invite people to make donations, special donations, over and above regular offerings, to pay off the balance on the mortgage. Our monthly mortgage payment is \$1,929.40. This pays down our mortgage debt at the rate of \$1,800 per month. Not having to pay this any more would go a long way to balancing our books. And if the special donations for this are greater than the debt, the balance of funds will go in to our building fund for future building improvements (such as sound baffling panels for the fellowship hall and/or a new platform for the front of the church) So far, \$1,240 has been given, and a pledge of \$1000 (to be given at the Thanksgiving service) has been received. These special donations (given by people over and above their regular offerings) have already brought us one month closer to being free from our mortgage debt so that we are free to dream about how God would like to lead us. This is shown visually below.

## Mortgage Free: Freed To Dream

Here are some simple precautions everyone can practice to help safeguard their health.

Stay home when you are sick – especially if you have flu-like symptoms such as fever, sore throat, cough, chills, muscle ache and pains over the whole body

Avoid if at all possible, being in contact with people who are sick

Avoid touching your nose, mouth, or eyes. Flu viruses enter your body through mucous membranes of the body

Wash hands thoroughly with soap and water at home before food prep, after being out in public etc. Make use of hand sanitizers available in public places. Se the ones available in our church upon entering,

working in the kitchen, after washroom visits and upon leaving church. Thank you to our Trustees for installing sanitizers!

Practice good health habits, i.e. good nutrition, plenty of rest, avois smoking as it may increase the risk of serious consequences if you do get the fl (the Flu is primarily an upper respiratory illness)

\$ 22, 500

20,800		
19,000		
17,200		
15,400		
13,600		
11,800		
9,000		Sep 30
7,200		
5,400		Aug 30
3,600		July 31
1,800		June 30

**Payments and pledges to pay off the mortgage since the voter's meeting on June 7, 2009**

Council has set Thanksgiving Sunday to be a meaningful time to participate in this, but anytime is a good time to give. If you would like to give a special thank offering over and above your regular giving for this, indicate on your envelope the amount you are giving, and that it is for "Thanksgiving Mortgage Offering." If you have any questions, please ask me. With God's help and if we put our trust in him, we can move mountains. - Johanna Rekers, Treasurer

So far the majority of H1N1 flu virus cases in B.C. have been relatively mild. The biggest threat from H1N1 virus is that it could be a pandemic which means it could become severe and worldwide. We hope this does not happen.

There is a Health Unit in Parksville where anyone can phone for flu and vaccine information. The number is 250-248-2044

Keep washing those hands! It really does help.

Janet Sperber

## H1N1 Flu Virus and Regular Flu Information



Influenza is caused by a virus and is generally spread when an infected person sneezes or coughs and infected droplets land on any surface, and contaminate it. i.e.

telephone, computer key board, door handles etc.

*An added note from Pastor Craig – If you do need to stay home because you have the flu, and you need anything picked up from the store such as juice or "aspirin", or if you would like a prayer, please phone the church office and either Bonnie or I will be happy to help you.*

## Church Extension Fund

There are many places for a Lutheran to invest funds. There are banks and brokerage firms eager to open an account and establish a relationship. With CEF & ABC District Investments Ltd., you can put your money to work on a mission of great importance: The expansion of the Kingdom of God and the spread of the Gospel. When you invest with CEF / ABC District Investments Ltd. your money is used to build churches, Lutheran Schools and other ministry entities. CEF spurs effective ministry and growth by providing affordable loans that ministries in the ABC District need. With your help, individuals, churches and entire communities are changed. What an impact you can make! See our Church Extension representative (insert CEF Rep name & contact information here) today or contact the ABC District Office at 1-888-474-0063 or email: [cef@lccabc.ca](mailto:cef@lccabc.ca) / website: <https://cef.lccabc.ca>.

## What would you say?



"What would happen if I came to your church?" Have you ever been asked that, or something like it? I have. Sometimes I have felt good about my answer,

sometimes not so good, but I've always sought to answer it truthfully. Probably the worst times for me, were when even I didn't understand what I was trying to say, so what on earth did I leave the other person thinking! I've answered it when living in Edmonton, Houston, Italy, England, Summerland and yes, here in Parksville. I've answered it as a young believer, just getting familiar with the Lutheran Church, I've answered it after being the Pastor of a congregation for 12 years, and I've answered in my first year of being the Pastor of a congregation.

After almost 30 years of answering this question, this past week a whole new answer came to me. It came to me from what I have seen and heard from others about their experience at Our Saviour. I always seek to answer in a way that would be meaningful to the person asking, but I

think my new answer would be a good beginning for pretty much anyone who asks me. My new answer? "If you came to Our Saviour, you would experience God's love." I have a lot of ways I see that happening. One is the way so many of you show acceptance and interest in the people who come here for the first time. I see many more ways people are experiencing God's love here, now, but what really interests me, and of far more importance is ... how do you see people experiencing God's love through Our Saviour Lutheran Church? Next time you see me, let me know. Or write me a note. I would love to be able to share some of your answers with others next month. – Thanks! Pastor Craig



a unique fundraising opportunity?

Use as a tree ornament ... or a place card holder!

**Glass Angel Gift Set includes:**

- 4 hand-blown glass angel ornaments
- 8 place cards with gold border
- gift box with satin ribbon
- gift tag to personalize your gift

**10.00** the set, taxes include

## Christmas "Avon glass angels"

**Fundraiser** for the BC Mission Boat is on now! Boxed sets of 4 for \$10.00 will be sold until November - a great Christmas gift! Marie Kollmuss will coordinate this -- everyone can buy or help sell to friends. See the poster on the church bulletin board. Marie will assist with providing order forms and purchases. See her at coffee

time after church or contact: [avon-marie@shaw.ca](mailto:avon-marie@shaw.ca) or 250- 248-2972.

OSLC is committed to support the BC Mission Boat, one of our own outreach programs. We will continue to support various fundraising projects along with our personal contributions of time, prayer and donations.

**Save On Foods and Quality Foods giftcards** are available again for purchase, in support of the BC Mission Boat. **Thrifty Foods Smilecards** are available at no cost. We encourage everyone who buys groceries locally to try using them this season. You can purchase them from the church office or from a representative during Sunday coffee/ fellowship time.



## Ladies

You may have heard by now that we are trying something new for the women of our congregation. Every second Wednesday of the month, at 1PM, we will have a Bible Study with Pastor Craig. The Theme will vary, but of interest to women. Afterwards there will be refreshment and fellowship. For the middle of October we are planning an outing to the Museum in Cumberland.(Sat. Oct. 17<sup>th</sup>), and we are also planning a trip to the Village Theatre in Qualicum Beach. These events are for all the women of the congregation and they may invite other female guests as well. You will find a sign up list in the Fellowship hall, close to the kitchen. You may also call Millie Wayne for more details at 250-248-0060.

Helga



- 11 Hagen Becker
- 11 Gabrielle Courtorielle
- 13 Doreen Hagedorn
- 17 Hilton Zutz
- 21 Garry Semple
- 22 Judy Dyke
- 23 Allan McAskile
- 24 Barry Bjornson
- 26 Bill Palleson
- 27 Jeanette Domes
- 29 Eileen Colibaba
- 30 Mary Parker
- 31 Ursula Pohl

## OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES



- 4 Larry & Elinor Mix
- 9 Jessie and Olaf Reynolds
- 13 Ken and Alice Hennig

## Celebrations

### OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Tammy Koebernick
- 1 Elinor Mix
- 4 Katie Connors
- 9 Matthew Ball