

OSLC NEWSLETTER

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Message from Pastor Craig

Pastor's unusual month...

I like home. But in the coming month, some different things will be taking me away from home.

The BC Mission Boat Society will take me away for a two day planning retreat with the Board of Directors in Vancouver. I'll be leaving September 29, and coming back the evening of October 1st so that I can be here to lead the service on Sunday morning (Oct 2).

The Lutheran Church Canada BC Church Workers will take me away for the annual four day conference at Camp Luther (near Abbotsford). I'll be leaving October 3 and coming back the evening of October 7, via Seattle. The little detour is necessary to pick up our son Stephen, and bring him home for Thanksgiving weekend, along with his belongings he will store with us as he prepares to head out on his bicycle tour of Vietnam.

The Strathcona Ecumenical Mission will take me away to be their keynote speaker for four days. I'll be leaving October 22 and coming back the morning of October 27. I'll be presenting the material I developed on my study week last year. The theme is "Live it up in Jesus." I used the material as the basis for our Lenten services this year. Strathcona County borders Edmonton. Congregations participating in the Mission take turns inviting someone from their church body to be the speaker.

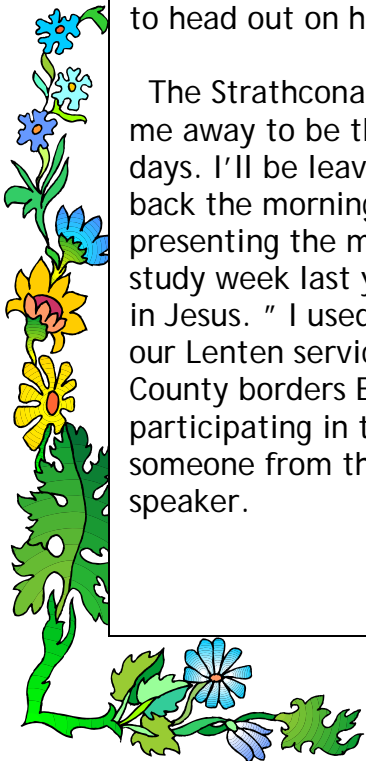
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I was asked in December 2010 to consider this, and am grateful for the elders giving me this opportunity. The Mission has quite an impact in the news in Strathcona County, and is well advertised in the churches in the Edmonton area. I have 9 different presentations to make and really would value knowing you are praying for me over the 4 days. Please pray for me to be lead and guided by God's Spirit of grace and truth in Jesus, and for all whom God would have present, to be drawn and invited to this event. For those who would like to see their brochure for this year, here is a link to their Facebook page:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Strathcona-County-Ecumenical-Mission/106867979377695>

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In October I will also be considering St. John's Lutheran Church in Vernon request to consider if God is calling me away on a more permanent basis. For those who haven't heard, at a regular voter's meeting they voted to issue me a "Divine Call." I have heard from many of you that you think it is too early for me to be leaving. I appreciate these thoughts, and the many other words of encouragement you have shared with me. I ask for your prayers as I seek God's will on this decision.

If you have any comments or questions about this "unusual month" .. please let me know.
Thanks, Pastor Craig.

Everybody loves a conspiracy

"The hunger for conspiracy is based upon the deep human need to find intelligibility for what is happening. ... There is something vast going on... we suspect it... God is up to something." - Dallas Willard

In October you can come to a study to find out about The Divine Conspiracy. Based on a book by Dallas Willard, this 3 session study will help you better understand what God wants for you, from you, and for the world. Each session will include a video of John Ortberg (whom we have seen before in some other studies we have done here) talking with Dallas Willard about a thought from the book.

"The path of spiritual growth in the riches of Christ is not a passive one. Grace is not opposed to effort. It is opposed to earning. Effort is action. Earning is attitude. You have never seen people more active than those who have been set on fire by the grace of God." - DW

The first session "The Good News Jesus Proclaimed" will be on Wednesday, October 12 at 7 pm. The second "The Path to a Blessed Life" will be on the 19th at 7 pm and the third "Living as a Disciple of Jesus" will be on Wednesday November 2 at 7 pm. If you would like to see a day time session for this study, please let Pastor Craig know. For those who are wondering, Dallas Willard is a professor at the University of Southern California's School of Philosophy.

"The path of spiritual growth in the riches of Christ is not a passive one. Grace is not opposed to effort. It is opposed to earning. Effort is action. Earning is attitude. You have never seen people more active than those who have been set on fire by the grace of God."

"God is up to something. And He's up to something really good." - DW



Holy Communion Schedule changed for October

This month we will celebrate Holy Communion on the 3rd and 5th Sundays. October 16 the service will follow our traditional order from Lutheran Worship. October 30 we will use a special order as part of Reformation Sunday. Reformation Sunday we recall, reaffirm and reapply the principles of the Protestant Reformation of the church that was instituted with Martin Luther's publication of 95 theses on October 31, 1517.

Travel Logs....

move over

Rick Steeves



Yes... we are going to travel around the world with other members of our OSLC family. An idea was brought forward to Doreen and Kathy to have a series of evenings where we could enjoy picture presentations from some of our members who are willing to share their experiences.

So, firstly.....please let Doreen or Kathy know if you have taken a trip and have pictures that can be shared via the laptop on the big screen.

We have quite a few people who are interested in attending. It is our hope to put together 4-6 presentations, with one per month. If you are presenting, you can have it in your own home or at the church. The presentation does not have to be of an exotic trip, there are many locales here in our province that many of us have not seen. Being an armchair traveler is one of the most pleasant ways to spend an evening and save money!

The first presentation, to get us started, will be to Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands. Kathy Bender will host this travel log at her home at 7 pm on Friday November 30, 2011, refreshments will be served. A sign up sheet will be posted on the bulletin board so that Kathy will know how many to expect.

By the way, in case you don't recognize the name, Rick Steeves is a travel writer and TV personality who hosts travel shows from locales all over the world, and is one of the most recognized references to travelling in Europe.

Kathy Bender and Doreen Hagedorn

Change in office hours

Megan is now working Tue, Wed, Fri mornings from 9 to noon, and Friday afternoons until 3:30. The change was required so Megan could take on another part time job at the Bellevue Veterinary Clinic, where she now works full days on Thursdays and Saturdays. We're glad for Megan, and glad she can continue to work for us. But .. it does mean there will be some mornings when Pastor is away, and no one will be in the church office. On those mornings Jessica has agreed to answer phone calls to OSLC, and a sign on the door will direct those who come by that they may drop off packages or messages at the BC Mission Boat office. If you have any questions or comments about the changes, or suggestions for alternative ways of converging the office on the mornings when Pastor is away, please let Pastor or Megan know.

Thanks!

Voters to consider hiring Jessica part time for youth work

At the meeting on October 2nd the Church Council will be recommending to the voters that OSLC hire Jessica Pixner to work 4 hours per week with the youth of OSLC. Jessica was here, along with Jordan, as a summer worker for the BC Mission Boat Society. She has committed to staying on for a year to work as the BCMBS Office Administrator (15 hours per week) and part time (as funding permits) on broadening the donor base for the BCMBS. The BCMBS is glad for the possibility of this work for Jessica, and she is excited about the possibilities for having some time dedicated to the youth of OSLC.



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

We at OSLC have the opportunity to get involved in a great fundraiser again this year. Operation Christmas child is a simple, fun and easy way to help so many deserving children that are in need and a great way to show and teach our children about helping others and showing God's love. Operation Christmas Child brings joy and hope to children in desperate situations around the world through gift-filled shoe boxes and the message of God's unconditional love. It provides an opportunity for people of all ages to be involved in a simple, hands-on project of Samaritan's Purse that focuses on the true meaning of Christmas - Jesus Christ - God's greatest gift.

To date, Operation Christmas Child has collected and distributed over 86 million shoe box gifts worldwide. Each shoe box gift is filled with hygiene items, school supplies, toys, and candy, is given to children regardless of gender, race, religion, or age.

Fill your shoe box with a well-balanced variety of items from the following categories:

- **School Supplies** - Items such as pencils, pens, pencil crayons, note pads, and picture books
- **Toys & Other Gifts** - Items such as stuffed animals, small musical instruments, hair clips, toy jewellery, t-shirts, socks, and candy (loose, individually wrapped hard candy in a sealable bag)
- **Hygiene Items** - Please place soap in a sealable bag
- **Personal Note** - Include a personal note and/or a photo in your shoe box (not inside the donation envelope)

Shoe Boxes can be picked up in the office, feel free to take as many as you think you can fill and bring them back into the office when done. Shoe Boxes will be ship in early November. We look forward to being able to help as many children as we can. Thank You for your participation.



Welcome Everyone

To the delightfully delicious, supremely spaghetti dinner at Matt and Tammy's house. We plan on having anyone interested to come on over for a plate of spaghetti on Friday October 21 between 6:00 to 10:00. Stay for a bit or for the entire time, play a game or two or just visit but have fun and enjoy the meal. Please let us know if you are coming so we can plan the food accordingly. Our number is 250-752-0734 and our address is 1561 Sharon's Place.



Alpha Reminder...
Course starts on Monday Oct. 3rd at 6pm with a meal every week. Feel free to tell your neighbors and bring a friend!

BCMB Summer 2011

What a fantastic summer we had here at the BC Mission Boat Society! We have seen God moving and stirring in both the teams that joined us for our mission adventures and within the communities we sought to share God's love in real and tangible ways. We also had the amazing experience of having Jordan and Jessica joining us as summer staff. Here is some of what they had to say about their summer experiences:

Thank you to OSLC

I would like to thank the congregation of Our Saviour Lutheran Church for all of the support you have given me during these past four months working for the BC Mission Boat Society. I've been so blessed to be working with Marcus and Jordan who have both taught me so much and encouraged me over the past few months. We were all able to travel into various communities and share God's love in so many different ways.

A couple of highlights for me were holding Spa Nights in Bella Bella and Ehattesaht and using them to share God's love with the women and young girls of the communities. The one evening in Bella Bella, some of the girls and I were doing our nails, we even talked and bonded over Justin Bieber and began singing his songs during our time together! Another highlight was in Ehattesaht with a girl named Florence. We were doing each other's nails in and we were talking about when she grows up and Jesus and how He died to save us. I am so thankful for the opportunities I've had this summer to travel, surf, and share God's love and to grow and stretch in my personal walk with God.

Thank you for welcoming me into your church family and showing me God's love through taking the time to get to know me, pray for me and encourage me in my plans for the coming year. I've really felt like I've been among family throughout the summer and it's been amazing! I also wanted to thank the ladies who were part of the Spa Weekend for including me and making me feel like part of the group! This congregation has been so good to me and I look forward to becoming more involved and continuing friendships with you all this year.

Jessica Pixner

I would like to take this time to thank the congregation of Our Saviour for your support and encouragement during my time with the BC Mission Boat.

This summer I had the privilege of working with Marcus Huff and Jessica Pixner. During our time together we shared many memorable experiences: Whether it was surfing in Tofino, travelling to a community, watching a movie, walking around Victoria or pulling pranks on one another, we shared a lot of laughter and become good friends.

From the first day I arrived in Parksville, you warmly welcomed into your congregation and involved me in your lives. I really enjoyed getting to know everyone from Our Saviour while we cheered on the Canucks and ate delicious food. It was at this time that I was able to see who the true Canuck fans were. Brian although you screamed and yelled at the T.V. on various occasions, I respect and admire your loyalty to your team. I also really appreciated how much support our team received during the Fun Fridays. Without your support, these events would not have occurred.

This summer I was able to have so many amazing experiences because of your support and prayer. In June, I was able to deliver school supplies to elementary students in the community of Ehattesaht. I was able to play guitar for two patients at the hospital in Bella Bella. I was able to meet a five year old girl named Cassandra in Ehattesaht who brought a smile to my face every time I saw her. I was able to battle on the volleyball and basketball court with the youth and adults in Klemtu. I was able to meet other brothers and sisters in Christ from Red Deer, Alberta; Kitchener, Ontario and Thunder Bay, Ontario.

I have never been part of a congregation that feels like such a family. You are a part of something very special at Our Saviour and I will truly miss all of you. May God bless you now and always as you continue in your journey with Him. Know that God is with you and that there is NOTHING that could ever separate you from His love.

Sincerely,
Jordan Mayer

Buying Thrifty Foods Groceries (using SmileCards) helps the BC Mission Boat? How?

If you shop at Thriftys, then get your "SmileCard" from the Mission Boat or Church office

Thrifty Foods continues to assist the BC Mission Boat with the SmileCard program. We have been approved again for the May 2011 to 2012 year, to receive their support up to \$1000. This is based on 5% of all groceries purchased with BC Mission Boat designated SmileCards, which you get from our Mission Boat office. Thrifty Foods sends a monthly cheque to the BC Mission Boat, for 5% of everyone's SmileCard purchases – and – you still collect your own Thrifty points. If everyone at OSLC who shops at Thriftys does this, we'll make the \$1000 this year, just by buying our groceries.

"Thank you" to those who are already using SmileCards. If you haven't started but you "do get groceries at Thriftys", why not get your card (at no charge) from the Mission Boat or the Church Office and offer this 'extra donation' to the BC Mission Boat. You will need to get the card from the Mission Boat or the church office, because these cards are predestinated in the Thrifty Foods accounts so that 5% of groceries bought with them is sent to the BC Mission Boat. It works like loading your own "Gift Card". Remember to "load the card" with funds at the beginning of your shopping and "before" you start running your groceries through, using your usual method of payment (Credit, Bank debit, Cash or cheque). The unused amount on the card is registered and it carries over to your next shop. *Note that your "Thriftys points card" still collects points for you – it's a separate Thriftys program.*

Since October 2008 when Thrifty Foods began supporting the BC Mission Boat, they have contributed **almost \$2000**. By their request, we have used the funds for communication resources and equipment.

This year, the designation is for website improvement which will assist with communication for outreach, promotion and support. Let's see if we can raise a \$1000 Thrifty Foods donation, before May 2012.



Thank you, from Jeanette Domes, for the BC Mission Boat Board & OSLC Outreach

OSLC Garden Tour a Smash Hit!

On Sept 10th, we had a wonderful afternoon touring the gardens of the Reikers, the Sperbers, the Pallesons and the Mix's. A special thank you to them for allowing us to explore and learn about their gardens. Thank you also to Elinor and Larry Mix for so graciously hosting us to tea, I would say it was like a 'high tea'. Wonderful goodies and the weather were spectacular.

Everyone enjoyed the Garden Tour so much we have committed to doing a spring tour. Many people felt their gardens were more at their peak in late spring so look forward to seeing more information sometime next May.

Your servants in Christ,
Doreen Hagedorn &

VBS – Big Jungle Adventure

A great time was certainly had by all. The jungle theme was quite popular with the kids (adults too. I have heard comments from a few adults now that they miss the decorations!).

The children really responded well to the coin drive.

We received \$280. \$160 is for malaria shots & 12 family nets – this is to go to Lutheran Malaria Initiative, Chicago.

\$120 will be for goats and chickens and this is to go to LWR, Winnipeg.

We had 37 children registered, who were divided into four tribes – Red, Yellow, Green, and Purple. Everyone wore Buffs (with the jungle theme logo on them) this year. The children's buffs corresponded to their tribe color, and the staff, for the most part, wore orange buffs. It was a fun way to get into the theme.

The tribe leaders led their tribes to 5 stations – Story, Crafts, Bible Adventure, Games and Snack. Throughout the morning, things were really buzzing everywhere.

We had 43 people on staff during the week, who all worked very hard, but with such cheerful servants hearts. It was just a delight to hang with everyone. We also had a number of other people helping with pre-VBS set up, decorating, Thursday barbeque, and nightly cleaning.

As well, we had many people who provided financial and prayer support.

We had 8 youth on staff, and they were such a great addition to the team. We all enjoyed their enthusiasm and energy.

A big THANK YOU to all those who helped out in some capacity with VBS. It is definitely a “whole congregation” event, and it couldn't happen without the congregation's support.

ABC Connect Newsletter...

Is a great newsletter it contains a ton of info on what is going on in our District and resources for congregations; it's always up to date on the latest. If you are interested in signing up to receive it you can go to this website... <http://www.lccabc.ca/>

Things you need to know about Thanksgiving at OSLC

Sunday October 9 we will celebrate Thanksgiving with:

- **A display of garden goods.** The idea is to represent the bounty and beauty of this wonderful place we live. Bring your garden produce and flowers on Saturday, October 8 at 2:00.
- **A collection for the food bank.** The food bank has said they particularly need of peanut butter, pasta and pasta sauce, Mr. Noodles (but no Chicken) Canned fruit, Canned Tuna, Alphagetti's, Kraft Dinner and 100% Fruit Snacks to name a few. If you bring it for Saturday, October 8 at 2:00 (or drop it off earlier in the week) we can use it as part of the display up front. Or you can bring it on the 9th, and place it up front.
- **An "African style" offering time.** OK, we won't go dancing up to the front to place our financial offering, but we will have the plates up at the front of the church, and you can come up to place your offering at the base of the altar, as a sign of the source of our deepest joy and thanks.
- **Our special financial thank offering** this year is being designated for the Haiti Lutheran Mission Society. (You can talk to Brian Hagedorn if you would like more information about their work). This means any of the general offering that is not in envelopes will be sent there, along with any of the offerings in the special thanksgiving offering envelopes or that you designate as such on your regular envelope.
- **A special thank offering of action** will also be invited. There will be inserts that you can fill in and bring up, to make an offering of some kind of special action, or new action on your part. You can bring these up along with, or instead of a financial offering.
- **Some wonderful music, and singing and prayers.**

Upcoming Events ... October at OSLC

- September 30th- October 1st ...BCMBS Board retreat
- Sunday, Oct 2nd Voter's Meeting after Sunday service
Senior Service at Stanford Place 2:30pm
- Monday, Oct 3rdStart of the Alpha Course 6:00pm
- Wednesday, Oct 5thTHE DIVINE CONSPIRACY "The Good News Jesus Proclaimed"
Bible Study 7:00pm-8:15pm (3 week Evening Session)
- Wednesday, October 12th Ladies Visit & Study 1pm
Church Council 3pm
THE DIVINE CONSPIRACY "The Path to a Blessed Life"
Bible Study 7:00pm-8:15pm)
- Thursday, Oct 13thBCMBS Board Meeting 2:30-5:30
Elder's Meeting - 7:00pm
- Sunday, Oct 16th Men's Breakfast 8:30am
Senior Service at Gardens 2:00pm
- Wednesday, Oct 19th THE DIVINE CONSPIRACY "Living as a Disciple of Jesus"
Bible Study 7:00pm-8:15pm)
- Tuesday, Oct 25th Senior Service at Eagle Park 10:30am