



Our Saviour Lutheran Church

September 2009



PASTOR'S MESSAGE

What do you want from OSLC?

What you want, matters. It matters to me, and to all the elders of OSLC. More important, it matters to God. That is why this fall we will be asking you, along with every person who comes to OSLC, to complete the REVEAL Spiritual Life Survey. The results from this survey will help us evaluate what we are doing, and give us some ideas to propose OSLC try, to help us grow spiritually.

Why this emphasis on growing spiritually? God enables it, and we need it. We need to grow spiritually to have the maturity we need for the challenges we will face (as individuals, and together) as witnesses to the abundant life that comes from listening to Jesus.

It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be

built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work. (Ephesians 4:11-16 NIV)

God's desire for us to grow spiritually far exceeds our wants or needs. We have God's Word that we will grow to be like Christ. Grow to be like Christ?!!! Yes, we will. We will grow to love God above everything, and love others, as we know God loves us. Yes, we will not arrive there before we see Jesus "face to face," but the Spiritual Life Survey we will be doing at the end of October can help us grow in that direction, as we engage in it as other

congregations have. Yes, we will grow to be like Christ, solely by God's spirit of grace and truth, poured out on all people in the dying and rising of Jesus, God's Son. And, yes, doing the Spiritual Life Survey can help a congregation see where there may be openings for this. Analysis of 80,000 responses to the Spiritual Life Surveys done in 376 congregations between October 2008 and March 2009 was able to identify where people's wants matched up with the kinds of things congregations and Pastors have been doing when people are growing spiritually. Here are three:

- Help me develop a personal relationship with Christ.
- Provide sound doctrine rooted in Biblical accuracy.
- Model and reinforce how to grow spiritually.

I wonder what the Spiritual Life Survey will show for OSLC? I can tell you this. It will not show your individual response, as the report we will receive will simply have all our responses put together. I think it will show that we have some differences from the overall survey results. If we thought we were the same, we wouldn't need to do the survey; we could just use the summary of other people's surveys. That is why it is important that you participate in the survey, and answer on the basis of what you think (not what you think you should think, or what someone else tells you to think). I know OSLC's results will not show us some magical answer to how we can become some kind of "super church." I believe they will show us some things we can all consider together, as we seek to have OSLC grow in being the congregation God has gifted us to be. I believe that is a want, and a need, we all share. God bless you.

- Pastor Craig

TREASURER'S REPORT –

	JUNE	JULY	AUG
Offerings	10,254	9,845	10,182 [est]
Expences	15,187	11,364	12,566 [est]
Short	[4,933]	[1,518]	[2,384] [est]

Total balance for the year is [9,070]
 Johanna Rekers

What are God's expectations for my giving?

"Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites!

You give a tenth of your spices—mint, dill and cummin.

But you have neglected the more important matters of the law—justice, mercy and faithfulness.

You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former."

- Jesus (Matthew 23:23 NIV)

Too often the above is read as a criticism of tithing, as if it were opposed to the justice, mercy and faithfulness God desires. But Jesus says, "You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former." What does this mean? The new covenant, the covenant of the Holy Spirit living in us through the justice, mercy and faithfulness of the Father in the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus, sets us free to trust God beyond the limits of the Old Covenant Law, without neglecting the spirit of it. Example:

Tithing – an act of faith, recognizing God as the source of everything good, giving a portion of income to support the regular ministry of God's word. The Old Testament rule was to give a tenth to the work of the Priesthood/temple. A Christian perspective on this is giving to support the work of the

Church, normally through your local congregation, with one tenth of income as a helpful guideline, but not necessarily a starting, or stopping point. Some give much more, some start with a smaller percentage, but with a goal to increase it over time.

Thank Offering – a special offering, over and above a person’s regular tithing, given on occasions of special thanksgiving. Many Christians do this for Christmas, Easter and Thanksgiving, and other special family occasions.

Special Need Offering – a special offering, over and above a person’s regular tithing, given in response to a special need that has been identified.

These are the main kinds of financial giving identified in the Bible. They were talked about in our June 28th service, and are reprinted here for the help, and further consideration, of all, to receive the gift of personal financial resources transformed by faith in Jesus Christ to become a way you have been blessed to give as part of God’s name being hallowed, God’s kingdom coming, and God’s will being done on earth, as it is in heaven. For all of this is meant to be done in the Spirit of God, given us in and through Jesus, generously, freely, graciously, cheerfully, willingly, anticipating wonderful results.

Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.

Each should give what he or she has decided to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.

2 Corinthians 9:6-8 (NIV)

On June 28 we heard what this looked like in one family. If you missed it, look for the article titled “The rich family in church” (in this newsletter). It is a wonderful gift from God to grow in this area of giving, and there are some excellent helps available. Pastor Craig has a video based course called “Freed Up Financial Living.” It covers Earning, Giving, Saving, Debt, Spending and Spending Plans based on acknowledged financial and Biblical principles. If you would like to go through it on your own, or with others, talk to Pastor Craig. All of us can benefit by making this a topic of our prayers. I invite you to join me in making this prayer from our June 28 service something you say each day for the rest of September.

Merciful, gracious and generous God, grant that I, and each person in my family, and every person who comes to Our Saviour, may receive the richness Christ gives:

- the richness of knowing your love, forgiveness and acceptance of us through Jesus,
- the richness this would give us in the way we see your goodness,
- the richness this would give us in seeing how much goodness there is in our life,
- the richness this would give us in the way we are good to others,
- the richness this would give us in the way we give to support the ministry of your Word & Sacraments.
- the richness of the faith and hope and love you want every person to receive.

Amen.

Finally, some who are blessed financially find it helpful to see how others are giving, to make sure they are directing an

appropriate amount of their giving to their congregation. In response to the request of one member of OSLC, the elders agreed to provide this information from 2008. May it be one more piece of information that the generous, gracious Spirit of God given in Jesus, uses to guide your giving at OSLC.

OSLC member offerings in 2008
Offering for the year # of envelopes total for category

Greater than \$5,000	6	\$ 45,008
\$1,000 to \$5,000	27	\$ 62,582
Under \$1,000	47	\$ 25,198
=====	===	=====
Total OSLC members	80	\$ 132,788



CHOIR

If you enjoy singing and want to be part of a rowdy group, come and join us on Thursday evenings at the church, from 7:30-8:45pm. We will begin by practicing something for Thanksgiving and Reformation. Even if you will not be here for those occasions, you are still welcome to come out and sing with us. We also learn the new worship song of the month and introduce it.



SUNDAY SCHOOL

Our curriculum this year is entitled The One Room Sunday School, which is exactly what we have, so we are excited about giving it a try. We have 5 teachers who will teach the class on a rotating basis: Lila Manziuk, Doreen Hagedorn, Susan Duncan, Rhonda

Kelman, and Donna Tufts. As well, we are trying something new this year and adding “on call” Teacher Assistants, who will help out with the class on days when we have preschoolers attending. We never know from week to week who we will have for Sunday School that day, so we are looking forward to the addition of our Teacher Assistants. They are: Bonalin Clearwater, Jutta Storey, Josey Palleson, Donna McAskile, and Jeanette Domes.

You will have probably already noticed that the divider in the Education room has been taken away. Some of the activities we will do with the group as a whole can be quite active and so we will need the room to move about. There will also be activities for each of the different age groups to do on their own, so this will allow them to spread out to their own tables. As the Education room doesn’t get used during the service, and Sunday School is over by the time church is over, I think it will work out well to share this room. We hope it will be a place of blessing for our children, as they are such a blessing to us. I am sure we will have a great year together.



FUN FRIDAYS

8 weeks of pot lucks in a row! Wow! What a busy summer it has been. Thank you sooooo much to all of you who came out on these evenings and fed, fellowshiped with, and prayed for the outgoing crew of the Mission Boat. It was a very meaningful evening to all the crews. They felt very welcomed, loved, and encouraged. Every evening turned out different – different crews of course, different people from the congregation attending, different food, different activities, and even once a different location – but, every evening had lots of chatter, lots of laughter, LOTS OF FOOD, lots of blessings.



UPCOMING BIBLE STUDY **Mirror Image – The Parables for today** For 5 Wednesdays, beginning

September 16 (with a break October 7), we will look at 5 of Jesus' parables. Part of our study will include "Mirror Image." Mirror Image is a video resource that tells the story of a family who face dramatic events and must choose how to respond. It covers the parables of the vineyard workers, the good Samaritan, the prodigal, the four soils and the bridesmaids. Classes will be held Wednesday mornings at 10 am or evenings at 7 pm. Choose either, or come to both!

PAY OFF TO DREAM

In June the voter's of OSLC agreed to invite people to make special donations to pay off the remaining balance on our mortgage to free us up to dream about OSLC's future. The remaining balance on May 31st was approximately \$22,500 and to date \$1090 has been received. On Thanksgiving Sunday we will have a special Thankoffering for this. With this, all three kinds of offerings discussed elsewhere in this newsletter in the article "What are God's expectations for my giving?" will be involved.



Tithing – your regular giving goes towards our regular operational cost, which at this time includes a monthly mortgage payment of \$ 1,929.40.

Special Need Offering – your giving to pay off the mortgage early will to hasten the day OSLC is free to dream about possibilities. It is difficult for a congregation to dream about possibilities when current operating expenses are regularly greater than current monthly income. Any attempt to dream

soon runs into "We can't even pay our bills right now!" Paying off our mortgage one year early could be a wonderful encouragement for the people of OSLC to dream about what other possibilities God's grace may enable here.

Thank Offering – your giving a special thank offering on Thanksgiving Sunday can be a way for you to express your thanks to God that we have our own building to meet and worship in.

We will keep you informed as we close in on our "Pay off to dream" goals. Watch for a financial update in the October newsletter, and plan on participating in the Spiritual Life Survey as one way you can help develop OSLC's dreams.

ALL OSLC LADIES



The ladies from Our Saviour are about to embark on something new! Are you interested in a ladies bible study? fellowship and possible field trips? These may be what's new and improved with the

restructuring of our monthly ladies get together. With the new format we will be able to do as we please while we still assemble on a monthly basis.

Curious? If so, please plan to attend our first meeting on September 9, 2009 at 1:00 pm in the church fellowship hall. Coffee and tea with goodies will be provided and Pastor Craig will also be attending to guide and help us develop our new program.

Also, we need to decide on a name of how we want to be identified, so bring your ideas to our first meeting.

CEF NEWS

September 27, 2009 has been designated as "CEF Sunday" across our district. I will have handouts for you at the door that day.. Please keep CEF in mind when you want to invest, or if you have an RRSP or RRIF maturing at another financial institution.

In these tough economic times, a return of 5% is excellent. That is the projected return on RRSPs and RRIFs this year through CEF. Call me at 947-9415, or see me after church on Sundays.

God Bless.
Carol Hagel.

NAME TAGS

Interest has been shown for more name

tags. Individual tags can be ordered for a price of \$6.75 each. There are price breaks at different levels -- for instance, \$6.35 for 10 or more.

This is from The Cutting Edge which is located in the strip mall across from the TD Bank. The above prices are for two lines.

I would be willing to handle an order for multiple tags as before, but only if there are at least 10 to order. Thanks for your interest and for wearing your name tags to help all of us remember who you are.

Carol Hagel.

SOS VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



Several years ago the SOS approached the ladies group to help in the Thrift Store with price tagging clothes and putting out merchandise in the store through the Community Partners Program. Since then a number of our volunteers have had to step down due to various reasons. This is only



one afternoon a month, the fourth Wednesday of the month.

Do you have a heart to serve this wonderful organization? All that's needed is a criminal record check and that's it.

If you'd like more information, you can contact Doreen Hagedorn at 250-586-1688 and she'll tell you more about it. It would be awesome to pitch in and help this great organization for our community.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Mike Perry
- 2 Megan Gray-Lysne
- 7 Diane Floyd
- 7 Mark Pichichero
- 8 Karl Henriksson
- 9 Bradley Lotspeich
- 11 Matthew Lotspeich
- 12 Bea Roeske
- 14 Lucille Reynolds
- 14 Will Steck
- 15 Bill Stefiuk
- 18 Marie Kollmuss



SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES



- 14 Bill and Joyce Stefiuk
- 25 Hilton and June Zutz
- 29 Charles and Irene McKinnon

Please note: Worship Services Sept. 13, 20 and 27 will be at 10:00 am. A Voters' Meeting will be held following the service on Sept. 27th to discuss a potential change to our Worship Service time.

