

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

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2015

The Ministry of Bearing One Another's Burdens

Therefore, the Bible can also characterize the whole life of the Christian as bearing the cross. It is the fellowship of the Cross to experience the burden of the other. If one does not experience it, the fellowship he belongs to is not Christian. If any member refuses to bear that burden, he denies the law of Christ.

-Dietrich Bonhoeffer, "Life Together" (p 101)

We give prayer shawls and quilts as a congregation to those in need of care. We pray for one another on Sunday mornings and throughout the week. We give financial assistance when disaster strikes like a fire or a medical emergency. We send cards during times of sickness and times of celebration, like birthdays and anniversaries. When there is an opportunity to worship with another congregation or to serve in the community, we show up. When I hear how people have been touched through the ministry at Our Savior's, it is often the way in which they have felt the love of the community around them. I recently looked again at all the cards that so many of you sent me after my father died, and I was humbled at the outpouring of support and love. In the language of faith, this is called "bearing one another's burdens".

As we look at ways to build a healthier community of faith, it is essential that we expand our understanding of what it is to bear one another's burdens. Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the German theologian at the core of the Lutheran resistance to the alliance between the state church and Nazi Germany, saw this first hand. He saw his friends and neighbors act in both horrible and heroic ways. He wrote at great length and with great insight about Christian community as he oversaw the training of pastors who studied and lived together. These young men were under his care in seminary as they prepared for ordination. Because the "confessing church" stood in direct opposition to the Nazi regime, each young man knew that he was risking his life. With so much at stake, the men needed to create a strong and life-giving fellowship within their community. The problem was that even though they were undertaking a heroic task, all of them were still human. In his book "Life Together: The Classic Exploration of Faith in Community", Bonhoeffer helps communities address this basic reality all humans share of being sinners while yet saints. First, Bonhoeffer says, we must accept one another for who we are instead of who we think or want the other person to be. He writes:

"The freedom of the other person is a burden to the Christian.... The freedom of the other person includes all that we mean by a person's nature, individuality, endowment. It also includes his weaknesses and oddities, which are such a trial to our patience, everything that produces frictions, conflicts, and collisions among us. To bear the burden of the other person means involvement with the created reality of the other, to accept and affirm it, and in bearing with it, to break through to the point where we take joy in it". (p 101)

Second, we must hold fast to the ministry of forgiveness. We must not judge those in the community when we are tempted to – and thus hold our tongues -- because there will be times when we are the one who needs that forgiveness.

"He who is bearing others knows that he himself is being borne, and only in this strength can he go on bearing. Then where the ministry of listening, active helpfulness, and bearing with others is faithfully performed, the ultimate and highest service can also be rendered, namely, the ministry of the Word of God." (p 103)

As we practice the ministry of bearing one another's burdens, we become more patient, loving, and tolerant of one another. When we refrain from judging one another and *bear one another*, we are free to serve Christ without expectation of how one another will reciprocate, measure up, or react in a way they think they should. Let us do this with humility, prayer, and forgiveness, so that what we see and experience in one another is the very love of Christ, who bore us on the cross so that we might have life forever. In 2015, we will be a witness to this reconciliation and hope.

Peace to you all,

Pastor Kristina

The Bridge Builders Information Corner

On the 25th of November the Synod Bridge Builders presented Our Saviors Lutheran Church with a report that contained a number of findings and recommended areas that we as a Congregation need to address. The means for addressing them is through the formation of a Bridge Builders Action Planning Team made up of our congregational membership. This Team's charter is to work in concert with the Church Council, the Pastor, the Committees and the general membership to renew and strengthen Our Saviors mission to the congregation, the Iron River community and the Church at large.

This article is to let everyone know that the Bridge Builders Action Planning Team has been assembled and is beginning to work on the tasks that Rev Ramie Bakken and Rev Laurie Skow-Anderson set in front of us to tackle. This team is composed of 13 people and they are as follows:

Dick Rewalt - Team Lead, Patty Lehman - Team Scribe, Pastor Kristina Jensen, Cindy Knapp, Howard Lehman, Rozie Maki, Karen Maron, Sandy Rau, Kathy Rewalt, Himma Santikko, John Schrock, Tammy Sipsas and Karlan Williams.

This is the first of what will be many communications on the activities of the Bridge Builder Action Planning team. Initially the Team will consider the three primary areas that Pastors Ramie and Laurie report surfaced. Those three areas are: 1. Stewardship/finances/budget, 2. Communications and 3. Staff Guidance. These three areas are broad and each will be addressed by subgroups on the team in order to come up with actionable plans and solid objectives. The process that the subgroups use is simple, it is as old as Christianity itself. It is found in the two commandments that Christ highlighted and are known as the "Greatest Commandments". The first is: Love God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is: Love your neighbor as yourself. So it is **Love** that we will use in all our interactions. Before we meet to brainstorm, plan or take action, in order to keep Love in front of us we will **Pray**. We will **Pray** to God for guidance, healing and help before we deliberate, before we establish objectives, before we create plans and the plans are put in motion. The bottom line in all this is to reaffirm in everybody's mind that Our Saviors Lutheran Church was established to Love God, serve as Jesus taught and listen to the Holy Spirit that was sent to comfort and sustain us.

The Action Planning Team activities are very public. Your ideas and input in all areas are always welcome. Your assistance is paramount – it can work no other way. Bring on the Love!!

Dick Rewalt
Planning Action Team Lead
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OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUETS FOR DECEMBER 10, 2014

Present Howard Lehman, Doug Thyberg, Peggy Hipsher, Cindy Knapp, Rozie Maki, Tammy Sipsas, Lynette Kesler, Sandy Rau and Pastor Kristina, Ken Tanula excused

President Howard Lehman called the meeting to order and led us in a Bible Study based on a story about the Devils yard sale of tools. The one tool he would not sell was discouragement because it was just too useful to him.

Secretary's report was approved by a motion by Peggy, seconded by Rozie and approved by all.

Treasurer's report was presented by Doug and Peggy. We have a balance of \$272.06 in the checking account. Lynette made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report, seconded by Cindy and approved by all.

Pastors report:

Worship services- 5
Pastoral visits- 8 hours
Meetings- 10
Education sessions- 10
Events- Community Thanksgiving Dinner
Mileage- 607 miles

Committee reports

Finance committee, Doug reported that out of 90 giving units, 43 pledge cards have been returned. It is planned to send out a request for more pledges. Memorial/Honorariums Committee, Sandy, will see that memorials are recorded and a note sent to the families.

Outreach and Evangelism, Cindy stated that the Salvation Army is the Mission of the Month. The nursery update is postponed until January. She will contact Assistant to the Bishop, John Sutherland, about the Sister Church. The Thanksgiving Dinner was a huge success, serving about 225 people and will be writing a summary report and send Thank Yous. The Food Shelf breakfast served more people because bacon was served.

Mutual Ministry Committee is continuing to work with Bridgebuilders.

Education Committee stated that the Advent Fair was not well attended.

Property Committee has not met but Doug is looking into Focus on Energy for cost sharing funds for the lighting update recently completed by Ted Callahan.

Stewardship committee reported that Evelyn is compiling the Time and Talent sheets.

Worship Committee met on December 1 to plan the services through January 4.

We will be using a service call "Christ be Our Light" during Advent.

Christmas Eve services will be held at 5PM and 7:30 PM. The next meeting will be January 5 at 5 PM.

Landscape committee reported that the Nativity Set has a lighting problem.

OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUETS FOR DECEMBER 10, 2014

Cindy made a motion to approve the committee reports, seconded by Rozie and approved by all.

OLD BUSINESS

Peggy will talk to the snowplow guy about pushing back the snow.

Thrivent reports that \$1,836.00 in Choice Dollars Grant Funds were distributed to Our Savior's this year.

The Scholarship committee asked to have Sunday, June 14, designated as Scholarship Sunday in order to raise funds. Cindy made a motion to approve this, seconded by Doug and approved by all.

Lynette is cleaning the church this month and needs help. She has asked members but they all say they are too busy. Other council members volunteered to help her. Tammy volunteered to clean the church in January, she will also need help and will look for volunteers.

Ken Tanula is concerned about the council contacting non-attending members. We discussed this and Pastor gave us a list of possible ways to reach out to these members. 1. Hold a banquet with these people as the guest. 2. create contact lists with members. 3. Send cards to those we are missing. 4. When we pray for families each week, we should send a letter asking for three specific things we can pray about for them. We will incorporate "Inactive" members back into our prayer list. We will continue to discuss this issue.

Bridgebuilder meetings are ongoing. We were interested in having them tell us that new Pastors are being trained to go out into the Communities they serve rather than to stay within just the congregation they serve.

NEW BUSINESS

Pastor will be creating some cards to leave when she has made a visit. She reminded us to let her know when people need a visit.

Cindy made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:25, seconded by Lynette and approved by all.

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, January 13 at 6:30 PM

Sandy Rau, Secretary



Prayer for Families

We will continue this year to include three families or individuals in our Sunday morning prayers. I know there are many of you that pray for individuals and the needs that we know of, but there are many times we don't know when someone is in need of a prayer. This is one more way for us to care for each other placing them in God's hands.

January 4

Pirkko Olson
Beverly Patterson
Charles & Beverley
Patterson

January 18

Bonnie Rantala
Jim & Sandy Rau
Dick & Kathy Rewalt

January 11

Jerry & Julie Peck
Bill & Linda Pepping
Judy Pohjonen

January 25

Bob & Bertie Ruef
Chris & Alice Sand
Shirley Saker



BIRTHDAYS this month

Jan Modeen 2nd
Marlene Hagstrom 4th
Cheri Erickson 6th
Jody Forsythe 6th
Evie Berge 7th
Laurel LaBelle 7th
Janelle Armbruster 7th
Charlene Billingsley 7th

John O'Brien 11th
Jim Olson 11th
Carole Danula 13th
Emalee Anderson 22nd
Gabrielle Raunio 25th
Ted Callahan 30th
Nancy Johnson 31st
Debbie Landgreen 31st

Volunteer Schedule January 2015

Date	Coffee	Lector	Nursery
January 4	John Schrock & Mary Berube	Donna Callahan	Volunteer Needed
January 11	Rodney & MaryAnn Lahti	Rozie Maki	Volunteer Needed
January 18	Debbie Landgreen & Bonnie Rantala	Mark Santikko	Volunteer Needed
January 25	Ken & Linda Watters and Carrie DeRosia	Dick Rewalt	Volunteer Needed
Monthly			
Ushers: Karen Wicklund & Laurel LaBelle			
Greeters: Shirley Saker & Charlene Billingsley			
Altar Guild:			



Jerry & Tricia Talso 1st
Jerry & Julie Peck 20th
Dick & Kathy Rewalt 31st

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

January 2015

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 Office Closed	2	3 12:00 Yoga
Pastor Kristina on Vacation → → → → → → →						
4 9:00 a.m. Worship Food Shelf Item — Dish Soap Pastor Kristina on Vacation	5 9:00 Community Quilting Group 5:00 Worship Committee 7:00 Al-Anon	6 Office Closed 9:00 TOPS 5:30 Yoga	7 9:30 Bible Study	8 6:30 Choir	9	10 12:00 Yoga
Pastor Kristina on Vacation → → → → →						
11 9:00 a.m. Worship 5:00 WELCA Bible Study Food Shelf Item — Hand Soap	12 9:00 Set up for Epiphany 9:00 Community Quilting Group 7:00 Al-Anon	13 Office Closed 9:00 TOPS 5:30 Yoga 6:30 Council	14 9:30 Bible Study 3:45 Wednesday Bible School Resumes	15 5:00 WELCA @ Debbie Landgreen's 7:00 Choir <i>Pastor at Monthly Conference Meeting</i>	16	17 Food Shelf 9:00-11:00 12:00 Yoga
18 9:00 a.m. Worship Food Shelf Item — Kleenex	19 Newsletter Deadline 9:00 Community Quilting Group 7:00 Al-Anon	20 Office Closed 9:00 TOPS 5:30 Yoga	21 9:30 Bible Study 3:45 Wednesday Bible School	22 10:30 Food Shelf Produce Distribution 6:30 Choir	23	24 12:00 Yoga
25 9:00 a.m. Worship Food Shelf Item — Canned Fruit	26 9:00 Community Quilting Group 7:00 Al-Anon	27 Office Closed 9:00 TOPS 5:30 Yoga	28 9:30 Bible Study 3:45 Wednesday Bible School	29 6:30 Choir	30	31 12:00 Yoga

Cleaning the Church- Every month there is a council member in charge of cleaning the church (among other duties). That council member would like some help. It is a big job that could be made smaller with many hands. Even if you would just like to do a portion of the job, your help is most appreciated. It is God's house and even God's house needs a bit of tender loving care. Please stop by the bulletin board across from the kitchen door to sign up to give us a hand.

Luke 11:25 And when it comes, it finds the house swept and put in order.

Quilters- We are now back quilting every Monday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. We invite and encourage anyone who enjoys quilting to join us each week. You can work on your own sewing project, sew a graduate quilt, or help make prayer quilts. Prayer quilts are sewn with our prayers for God's love and healing power. This ministry started a few years ago at Our Savior's. Hope to see you on Monday. BRING A SACK LUNCH.

Luther Park ~ Winter Fest- Saturday, February 28th. Join us for a day of fun and fellowship at this fundraiser to support the ministry and mission of Luther Park. Enjoy a bottomless cup of chili and vote for your favorite. Enjoy a variety of indoor and outdoor activities such as sledding, crafts, games and more. Drawings to win baskets. And enjoy the music of **The King's Countrymen** a bluegrass gospel group. So poster or go to www.lutherpark.org for more information.



Please keep the following men and women serving our country in your prayers: Continue to watch over Mike Hope, Tiegen Brickson, David Doherty, Kyle Thyberg, Ryan Glau, Peter Bracket, D.J. Bourassa, David Fierner, Darek and Charlotte Reijo, Craig Danula.

Be with their families and those who have returned. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Please pray for the following in need of God's care: Amy Frostman and family, Robby Maron, Jerry Tapani, Leroy Lahti, Scott Rickaby, Ken Watters, Vanessa Lawson, Bonnie Mahocker, Mason Weber, Jonathan Jensen, Shirley Welty, Jennifer Anderson, Connie Sorenson, Ginger Weyandt, Marge Johnson, Pam Hawk family, Jeri Ogren, Myron Knapp, John Hoffman, Doris Perala, Jason Moreau, Al Buhler, Cheryl Clark, Jean Sucha, Herb Buran, Darren Forsythe, and Darrel Ciskie.

Email Evelyn if you would like to add or (joyfully) remove someone from our prayers.