

The VOICE of Our Savior

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FEBRUARY 2007

Pastor's Message

In Luke's account of Jesus' encounter with Zaccheus, the Lord explains his mission:

"For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost". (Lk 19:10)

At the January 15 meeting, the congregation council, in its ongoing study of evangelism, looked at this passage, and I lift it up for all of us. As disciples of Jesus Christ, called in the waters and Word of Baptism to carry out the Lord's mission, Jesus' mission is our mission: to share the Good News of God in Christ seeking out and saving those who have no relationship with God. Throughout the year, and beyond, our emphasis will be to plan and carry out all ministries with that mission in mind – to let the saving grace of Christ shine in everything we do – Worship, Christian Education, Youth Ministry, care of the property, stewardship, health ministry, member care, fellowship events – everything!

Keeping that in mind, I encourage you to place the following upcoming events on your calendars, check out the details elsewhere in this newsletter, and participate, remembering that what we are about, ultimately, is carrying out and supporting our

mission: *to foster a vibrant, visible community of disciples of Jesus Christ.*

- Sunday, Feb. 4 – Annual Congregation Meeting
- Saturday, Feb. 10 – "Go Red" Healthy Heart Women's Tea
- Sunday, Feb. 11 – Valentine Brunch
- Wednesday, Feb. 21 – Ash Wednesday Worship

As we gather in this place we lovingly call Lutheran Church of Our Savior, may God' Spirit equip us with and move us to share Christ in our words and lives. After all, that's the only reason there is a Lutheran Church of Our Savior!

In Christ,
Gary

What's Inside

Worship Notes	2
Council Update	3
Christian Ed	4
Youth Group News	5
Holy Terrors	5
Health Ministry News	6
Calendar of Events	7
WELCA News	8
JOY Group	9
Stewardship	10
Remember in Prayer	11

WORSHIP NOTES



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Saturday, 5:30 p.m. - Sanctuary

Sunday, 8:15 & 10:30 a.m. - Sanctuary

WORSHIP THEMES

Fifth Sunday After Epiphany (February 4)

In Baptism God calls us. In the Eucharist Christ feeds us and sends us into the world – just as God called Isaiah, and just as Jesus sent Simon, James and John. The good news handed down to us is meant to be passed on to others.

Sixth Sunday After Epiphany (February 11)

A decision: will we choose the way of blessing or the way of woe? The death and resurrection of Jesus is the pivot on which the decision turns. To be in Christ means we are planted by streams of water and rooted among those who thirst for God's reign.

Transfiguration of Our Lord (February 18)

Things are not always as they seem! Bread and wine become a place where we meet God. We are changed in our encounter with grace. How will we reflect our Lord's glory as we begin our Lenten journey?

Ash Wednesday (Wednesday, February 21, noon and 6:45 p.m.)

This day marks the beginning of Lent with ash on our foreheads. This cross echoes our baptismal anointing, when we were buried with Christ. While the ash is a chilling reminder of our mortality, our death is now

in Christ, and our endings are now beginnings. Our Lenten journey calls us to renew our faith in the Christ who makes all things new.

First Sunday in Lent (February 25)

Our Lenten journey is a spiritual struggle, as we acknowledge our sins in the confession and seek God's strength to remain faithful. God provides us help and hope as we come to our Lord in prayer, and the realization that we cannot live on our own. This we recognize in our worship as we gather to offer thanks to the God who gives us life.

MID-WEEK LENTEN SERVICES

Using 5 readings from the ancient Easter Vigil, our mid-week services this year will feature a sermon series on five of the most prominent stories that announced hope and salvation to the people of Israel. Noon worship will be followed by lunch, and 6:45 p.m. worship will be preceded by dinner at 6:00 p.m. There will be activities for children based on the readings.

Lutheran Church of Our Savior

Rev. Gary Eichhorn, *Pastor*

Terri Balsom, *Office Manager*

Don Hartman, *Treasurer*

Donna Gorrell, *Financial Secretary*

Ginger Minneman, *Music Director*

Rachel Spry, *Family Ministries Coordinator,
Organist*

Celeste Hoerner, *Youth Ministry Coordinator,
Children's Choir*

Elizabeth Beal, *Sonshine Choir*

Richard Freudenberger, *Handbell Choir*

Steve Swedlund, *Council President*

Rev. Robert A. Willauer, *Pastor Emeritus*

Council Update

Pastor Eichhorn read Luke 19 regarding Jesus telling Zacchaeus: “For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost,” and then discussed the opportunities that we have for Evangelism.

Two new Council members were welcomed—Bob Snyder and Jim Worley.

Executive Board elections were as follows: Chair, Steve Swedlund; Chair- elect, Doug Hammer; Secretary, Sue Longo; Financial Secretary, Donna Gorrell; and Treasurer, Don Hartman.

The January Council meeting focused on the 2007 budget and the Church’s HVAC replacement proposal. Steve Harper gave a presentation that summarized the extensive property committee work over this past year, and which laid the foundation for the HVAC proposal. The Council approved the HVAC proposal for consideration of the congregation, at the upcoming Annual Congregational meeting on Sunday, February 4, after the second service. This proposal involves moving the proceeds from the sale of the Lookout Drive property (currently in a CD) into an interest bearing account with other donated monies, and then using the interest to pay for the financing of the HVAC replacement. The proposal also directs the corpus of that interest bearing account to go to the Foundation, when the debt for the HVAC replacement is retired.

This discussion then led into the 2007 budget discussion, and a budget proposal was approved by Council to move forward to the Congregation on February 4.

Other notable action:

—Pastor Eichhorn announced a meeting to plan for the theme of ‘Peace’ for this next year.

—Foundation Board Nominees were approved: Vicki Waltz, Karen Roberts, Doug Hammer, and Steve Harper.

—Disbursements of the Willauer Scholarship Fund were approved for college students Elyse Fenstermacher and Lauren McFarland.

—It was noted that the Worship Committee is planning for integration of the new hymnal into our services.

—The Property Committee is proceeding with having a window refurbished, so we can see the quality of their work. LCOS has about 200+ windows that need repair.

—The ushers will assume the duty of being offering depositors after the 10:30 service each week.

Steve Swedlund

ANNUAL MEETING FEBRUARY 4

On Sunday, February 4, 11:30 a.m., the congregation will gather in the fellowship hall for the annual meeting. We will begin with lunch: fried chicken, drinks and place settings provided – please bring a food dish to share! The business meeting will include the following: receipt of 2006 ministry reports; HVAC proposal; 2007 budget proposal. Activities are planned for children. There are **NO** provisions in our constitution for proxy voting, so plan to attend!



SUNDAY CHURCH SCHOOL LENTEN SERVICE PROJECT

Lutheran Church of Our Savior is helping buy toys for the grief-counseling center Oak Tree Corner. Oak Tree Corner, housed for years here in our church library, counsels children whose moms or dads have died or have experienced other significant losses in their life. As Oak Tree Corner moves into a new home, we are collecting coins to purchase toys for kids to play with at the center, now located at the corner of Far Hills and Schantz. This Lent, Sunday Church School students of all ages will use special containers to collect coins for this project.

REVEALING CHRIST

The Sunday Church School classes from preschool through High School are creating two large banners to be dedicated and used in worship on Transfiguration Sunday, February 18. These banners contain symbols and text depicting different names for Jesus and are presented on Transfiguration Sunday, as we celebrate ways God has revealed himself to his people.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

April 1 and 8

Navigating through God's Word:
an intergenerational event

Yes, this includes Youth and Adults!

Continental Breakfast on April 8

BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAYS

This month we celebrate baptismal birthdays with:

Sarah Ansteatt 2-26

Aiden Johantges 2-19

Lucia Johantges 2-19

Ryan Kugel 2-23

Ian Munn 2-26

Please take a moment to encourage these children of God in their faith by dropping them a note in the mail or sharing an encouraging word in person.

Were you baptized in February but don't see your name listed? Please email Rachel Spry with the date of your Baptismal Birthday.

CONFIRMATION NEWS

Confirmation classes will not be held during February. Instead the Dayton Confirmation Cluster will gather at Camp Mowana (Mansfield, Ohio) for a weekend retreat, February 23-25. The retreat will focus on "stewardship", and will include a study of how we care for creation, especially as it pertains to the sharing of land in Palestine.

STAFF EMAIL

- GARY - gwe@oursaviordayton.org
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- RACHEL - ras@oursaviordayton.org
- CELESTE - CMZimmer38@aol.com
- ELIZABETH - musicmusic@woh.rr.com

OFFICE HOURS (Mon. - Fri.):

8:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon / 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Youth Group News



In January the youth group went for our monthly lunch at City BarBQue and then headed over to the Washington Township Rec Center to support one of our members, Jennifer Hanna. We attended her performance in *Miss Nelson Is Missing*, which was excellent. The TWEENS held their first ever lock-in, which was a smashing success. Eight girls attended and enjoyed participating in a Bible based activity, watching movies, eating a whole lot of snacks and doing a lot of talking and laughing. The event was chaperoned by Rachel and myself with help from Che' Brewer-Coon.

In February our lunch will be held at China House on Sunday the 18th immediately following the second service. Please plan to attend this lunch. In addition to the amazing food, we will be doing planning for the next few months' activities. We need as many people's input as possible. We will also be holding our **Second Annual Valentines Brunch on Sunday the 11th**. The proceeds of the event will go towards the youth group's mission work. The youth group brunches have become more and more popular over the years, and the food is always delicious, so mark your calendars now and plan to eat lunch at church that day.

Speaking of marking your calendars, make a note of these dates!

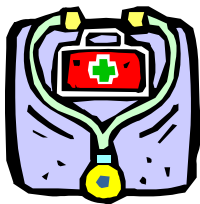
- February 10 - Brunch preparation 12-2
- February 11 - Brunch set up begins 9:30, Brunch 11:30-12:30, Clean up 12:30-1:30
- February 18 - Youth lunch and meeting, China House immediately following second service
- March 11 - Youth lunch (location to be announced)



Please watch your mail, bulletins and the church website for information on the February event.

MEIJER COMMUNITY REWARDS PROGRAM

If you shop at Meijer you can earn money for our **Social Ministry and Youth Programs** by joining and participating in the Meijer Community Rewards Program. Present your card each time you make a purchase. Reward checks are sent to the church. Join on-line at Meijer.com/rewards or pick up an application in the Narthex. The organization number is 974867. Refer questions to Ray Strohminger, 299-5031.



HEALTH MINISTRY NEWS

Free Confidential Blood Pressure Screenings

- Saturday, February 10, after 5:30 p.m. worship in the Sanctuary.
- Sunday, February 11, after 8:15 a.m. worship in the Sanctuary, after 10:30 a.m. worship in the Bridal Lounge.

Members of the Health Ministry Team offer these free and confidential screenings the second full weekend of every month.

"GO RED"



Women's Valentines Tea

**Saturday, February 10
3:00 p.m.**

- Guest Speaker from The American Heart Association
- Door Prizes
- Free and open to the public
- Please RSVP to Rachel by February 6



VALENTINES BRUNCH

Sponsored by the Youth Group

Sunday, February 11

11:30 a.m.

The suggested donation is \$4.00 for children and \$7.00 for adults.



All proceeds will support the Youth Group's mission work.

JOURNEY THROUGH



Literally meaning "lengthening of days", the word **Lent** is the title we give to the season of the church that prepares us for the Great Three Days (Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday) and the Celebration of Christ's Resurrection. To help us in our spiritual preparation, mid-week services are offered on **Wednesdays** (noon and 6:45 p.m.), with meals provided at 12:30 and 6:00 p.m. This year, we want to provide simple soup meals, and we are seeking individuals / families to help prepare soup for one Wednesday during Lent (begins with Ash Wednesday, February 21). If you would like to help, please contact the church office: 293-1147 or teb@oursaviordayton.org.



FEBRUARY 2007



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
4 ANNUAL MEETING 8:15 a.m. Worship 9:00 a.m. Children's choirs 9:15/9:30 a.m. SCS 10:30 a.m. Worship 11:30 a.m. Handbells	5 1:00 p.m. Circle 3:30 p.m. Staff	6 7:00 a.m. Prayer breakfast 11:30 a.m. Men's Bible study 5:00 p.m. Health Ministry	7 7:00 a.m. AA 9:30 a.m. Sewing 7:00 p.m. Foundation 7:30 p.m. Social Ministry	8 9:30 a.m. Chorus 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir	9 11:30 a.m. JOY Group lunch at church	10 10:00 a.m. Worship planning 10:00 a.m. AA & AI-Anon 12:00 p.m. Youth prep for brunch 2:00 p.m. Rwandan 3:00 p.m. Women's Tea 5:30 p.m. Worship
11 8:15 a.m. Worship 9:00 a.m. Children's choirs 9:15/9:30 a.m. SCS 10:30 a.m. Worship 11:30 p.m. Valentines Brunch 12:00 p.m. Property	12 7:00 p.m. Exec Board	13 7:00 a.m. Prayer breakfast 11:30 a.m. Men's Bible study 6:30 p.m. Christian Ed	14 7:00 a.m. AA 10:00 a.m. Circle	15 9:30 a.m. Chorus 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir	16 2:00 p.m. Bethany Communion	17 8:00 a.m. church work day 10:00 a.m. AA & AI-Anon 2:00 p.m. Rwandan 5:30 p.m. Worship
18 8:15 a.m. Worship 9:00 a.m. Children's choirs 9:15/9:30 a.m. SCS 10:30 a.m. Worship 11:30 a.m. Handbells 12:00 p.m. Youth lunch	19 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 3:30 p.m. Staff 7:00 p.m. Council	20 7:00 a.m. Prayer breakfast 11:30 a.m. Men's Bible study	21 ASH WEDNESDAY 7:00 a.m. AA 12:00 p.m. Worship 12:30 p.m. Lunch 6:00 p.m. Supper 6:45 p.m. Worship	22 9:30 a.m. Chorus 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir	23	24 10:00 a.m. AA & AI-Anon 2:00 p.m. Rwandan 5:30 p.m. Worship
25 8:15 a.m. Worship 9:00 a.m. Children's choirs 9:15/9:30 a.m. SCS 10:30 a.m. Worship 11:30 a.m. Handbells 12:00 p.m. Property 3:00 p.m. Sacred Harp	26 Food co-op	27 7:00 a.m. Prayer breakfast 11:30 a.m. Men's Bible study	28 7:00 a.m. AA 12:00 p.m. Worship 12:30 p.m. Lunch 6:00 p.m. Supper 6:45 p.m. Worship 6:30 p.m. Circle	29	Confirmation	Camp - Mowana

Wel ca News

Women Enthusiastically Living Christian Actions

Your calendar, hopefully, will have more than one date circled ... drawing your attention to the fact that date is an important one to your church and therefore to you!

February 4 - Annual congregational meeting! It will follow the 10:30 a.m. service. Be informed, there are very important matters to be put before us, our church needs to be cared for, to be cherished ... BE THERE! Our women's opinions are important!

February 10, Saturday, at 3:30 p.m. at the church, the Health Ministry team is hosting a Valentines Tea, specially for women. A guest speaker will discuss Heart Health. We women know how important it is to be in the know about our hearts ... come and bring a friend.

February 21 - ASH WEDNESDAY! The beginning of Lent! Time to give our spiritual life a boost. Read the *VOICE* and weekly bulletin for the times of the special worship services.

February 28 - The women of our church furnish the birthday cakes for the residents of Bethany Village. We have done this for years. We will do it on this date, four of us will go in the afternoon to Bethany with the cakes and help serve. If you would like to go and help, just call Joyce Strohming, 299-5031.

Carolyn Haman is our floating chairman through the month of April. If you would like to know more about our women's organization, or if you have any suggestions

to help all of us live Christian action, just call Carolyn, 845-8766.

These words just came to my mind, I think it is from a song ... "When there is more than one, gathered in His name, there is love, there is love." Since Valentines Day makes February the month of love, it seems appropriate to use those quoted words to express what church is all about, just think of the love that will abound when we meet for our annual meeting, when we learn about caring for our bodies, our temples, when we gather to celebrate Lent, when we reach out to those who are celebrating LIFE. That's what it's all about. GOD is LOVE.

See you in church,
Shirley Coen

FEBRUARY MEETINGS

- Monday, February 5 - Betty Hoover, 1585 Old Lane Ave. #2 at 1:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, February 14 - Joyce Strohming, 3615 Kingswood at 10:00 a.m.
- Wednesday evening February 28 - Sue Harbaugh, hostess, TBA

We haven't given up on the possibility that some of you might be interested in another evening group. If so call Nancy Phillips at 886-1714.

CHURCH WORK DAY Saturday, February 17

Breakfast begins at 8:00 a.m. and work will start at 8:45 and end around 10:00. Everyone is invited to join us.

Joy Group

FEBRUARY EVENT

Got the winter blahs? Join the JOY Group on Friday, February 9 at 11:30 a.m. at church for a “brown bag” lunch. Dessert and beverages will be furnished. Following lunch, Bob Batz, recently retired *Dayton Daily News* columnist, will entertain us with his human interest tales and good humor. All are invited. A sign-up sheet is in the narthex. Let’s have a good attendance for our guest. Any questions - call the Snyders at 433-8952.

MARCH OUTING

“*Oh, What a Beautiful Morning*” it will be at the LaComedia Dinner Theatre on March 29. The production is Oklahoma!, that delightful, tuneful musical. We’ve reserved a limited number of seats for the Thursday matinee performance. Plan to arrive at the theater about 11:00 a.m. Either drive yourself or car pool. We’ll be glad to help you make arrangements. Special group rates allow us to present this outstanding musical and luncheon for only \$35.00 (excluding tips). Reservations are on a first-come, first-served basis. Sign up early to assure yourself a seat. Payment to Mike or Sue Longo is due by Sunday, February 25. Call the Longos for details at 293-5282.

2007 ALTAR VASES

We still need sponsors for the altar vases on **April 15 & 29, October 28** and **December 9**. The cost of the vases are \$30.00, billed to you directly from the florist. Please call the office if you would like to sponsor one of the vases.

NEW HYMNAL: EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN WORSHIP



On Ash Wednesday, we will begin using the new worship resource, *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, also known as “the red hymnal”! The green and blue hymnals will be moved out of the sanctuary, and replaced with the new ones. During Lent, we will use one of the new worship settings (familiar to those who remember the days of the first red hymnal, The Service Book and Hymnal), and then we will use a familiar setting (also in the new hymnal) during Easter.

FUND DRIVE FOR NEW HYMNAL

The new hymnals (*Evangelical Lutheran Worship*) have arrived, and the Worship Planning Team invites you to donate one or more hymnals. There are envelopes in the office and narthex for you to place your hymnal(s) donation(s). Cost is \$17.50 per hymnal; please complete the front of the envelope so that Dedication Plaques can be printed in the office and placed in the front of the hymnals. If you have any questions, please contact Rachel Spry: ras@oursaviordayton.org.

You may also order your own personal copy of *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* by going to www.augsburgfortress.org and following the prompts.

Stewardship

TO KEEP YOU INFORMED OF OPERATING FUND STATUS

December 2006

Offerings (against budget):	\$46,717.07
Foundation (against budget):	23,177.44
Family/Youth Ministry income:	4,465.64
Other collections (non-budget):	
Social Ministry:	4,261.29
Memorials:	315.00
Special projects:	3,102.00
Foundation (Scholarships and Benevolence):	878.33
Expenses:	\$47,240.50
(Receipts - Expenses)	\$29,881.51

2006 Totals**

YTD collections (against budget):	\$340,985.19
Foundation (against budget)	92,709.76
Family/Youth Ministry income:	50,373.85
YTD other collections (non-budget):	
Social Ministry:	22,432.88
Memorials:	1,930.00
Special projects:	36,543.41
Meeting Room ("Blue Room") paint donation	2,546.48
Foundation (Scholarships and Benevolence)	4,054.32
YTD Expenses:	\$494,609.71
Balance (Receipts - Expenses):	-\$10,540.91

** \$353,459.43 from sale of 174 Lookout Dr. being held in CD until moved to Foundation.

** \$34,345.10 CD cashed in Sept. 13 to be used towards down-payment for Heating and Air-conditioning system updates, and to cover \$10,540.91 deficit for 2006.

- Submitted by Don Hartman

CONTRIBUTIONS MADE EASY

New Credit Card Option!

Save time, simplify your life, and support our church! We're keeping up with the times by offering our parishioners a new way to help our ministry. Our Electronic Giving program has been expanded to include a credit card option. Electronic Giving is an automated program that allows you to make contributions without having to write a check or reach into your wallet for cash!

Here is how it works:

All you need to do is fill out a simple authorization form with a specified amount of money to be electronically transferred directly from your checking or savings account or charged to your credit card. You also specify the frequency of the transfer.

It is fast, safe and easy! LCOS will continue to issue you a donation statement for your tax records, and your bank statement or credit card statement will provide you with a record of payment as additional proof of your contributions. Donations can also be directed to different or specific funds in the church budget.

For more information or to sign up for this option, please contact Donna Gorrell at 258-1426.



**MONDAY
FEBRUARY 19**

Remember in Prayer

When we pray for others, we lift them to God, seeking God's grace and blessing in their individual situations. When we ask others to pray for us, we honor them with our trust.

MEMBERS

Judy Ault	Mary Ellen Granger
Dorothy Belleman	Loren Metzler
Gus Brunsmann	Martha Miller
Don Cox	Jeff & Dana Oltmanns
Al & Helen Davis	Hema Rajaratnam
Arnette Davis	Jack Somers
Edith Ellis	Dorothy Zinkiewicz
Roy Frick	

A Service Celebrating
the Resurrection Faith
was held on
January 2 for
LELAND V. NORRIS, JR.
Praise God for receiving his
servant into the Kingdom!

FAMILY & FRIENDS

Karen Brunn, co-worker of Steve Harper
Sue Coblentz, friend of Mary Kaye Rhoades
Barbie Conlin, Laurie Harper's sister
Debbie LaMendola Darst, friend of Rita Boord
Dick Elsberry, brother-in-law of Ron Iverson
Brandon Emmons, grandson of a friend of Jim Uphoff
Epiphany Lutheran Church at Springboro, our prayer partners
Keith and Peg Field, friends of the Dawsons
Pat Freudenberger, Dana Oltmanns mother
Kamal Hanna, Phil's father
Frances Hart, Laurie Fenstermacher's grandmother
Collette McFarland, Shawn's mother
O'Leary family, Rita Boord's cousin
Paul Reuben, friend of Ron Iverson, captive in Iraq
Steve Thunell, Helen Stager's brother
Michael Vance, Penny's husband
Victims of the wars in the Middle East



NEW PRAYER LIST POLICY

When you wish to add a name of a friend or co-worker to our prayer list, the church office needs to know that you have permission from that person to have their name in print in the bulletin and newsletter. This is in accordance with Southern Ohio Synod confidentiality guidelines, as well as exercising common courtesy.