

# CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOUR

CHOSEN IN LOVE TO SHARE THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS CHRIST

363 S. Main St.

(Corner of 9<sup>th</sup> and Main)

Fond Du Lac, WI 54935

920.922.0020

oursavioursfdl.org

Pr. William Gruenstern

JUNE 2010

“Therefore, take up God’s armor; then you will be able to stand your ground when things are at their worst, to complete every task and still to stand.” *(Ephesians 6:13 NEB)*

On the fourth weekend in May, the East-Central Synod of the ELCA conducted its annual assembly in Stevens Point, this time with a bit of a wrinkle as we yoked our event with the Northwest Synod. Although the annual gathering is only a two-day affair, I like to make sure that when I am packing, I am remembering to bring all that is necessary. My bag is normally rather light, still I am that type of person who hates to run to the store when I have forgotten something and am some distance from home. It’s pretty much about detail and preparation, I guess. Like most people who ready themselves for a trip, I briefly go through a checklist of essentials and non-essentials.

Paul talks to us in the above snippet from Ephesians about the idea of preparation in our faith life. Putting on armor would seem to us to be rather strange words. In fact, I would invite you to look at the 6<sup>th</sup> chapter in its entirety and you will discover that the apostle gets into some detail about the pieces of armor in our lives which can be very important to us: “the belt of truth”, “the shield of faith”, “the helmet of

salvation” – among others. We don’t envision ourselves as believers putting on a military uniform and yet Paul invites us to become fully involved in our faith life in order that prayer, praise and service become intertwined in an unbreakable bond amongst ourselves and our God.

The weekend of the 21<sup>st</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> of May is secondarily noted as the time of the assembly which I mentioned earlier. Primarily, we take time to gather in celebration of the holyday of Pentecost. We do remember that the church as we know it today began with a small, brave band of believers who had been changed by a message of love and hope for all people of all time. May this Pentecost be a time of spiritual renewal for you and your household; may it be a time in we rededicate our lives to the God of our salvation.

Our faith is nothing if it does not find itself into the avenues of the community about us, changing lives and offering the gift of salvation through Jesus Christ.

See you at worship!

*Pastor Bill*

## SERVICE SCHEDULE

**If You Would Like To Volunteer For Any Ministry, Please Call the Following:**

### LECTOR / USHERS / GREETERS

Church Office—922-0020

OR

Natalie Wilburn-922-6532



**PRAYER CONCERNS:** For the families of Will Pagel and Audrey Peterson upon their deaths. Health concerns for Lee Rasmussen, Finnley Martin Reed, Aunt Marian, Tessa Stoeger, Earl Kettler, and Carol Rhodee.



**PRAYER CHAIN:** May we include you in our prayers? Do you have a prayer-need that we can help you with. If so, please call one of our prayer chair persons, Jill, 922-1556 or Maureen, 921-5474. If you would like prayers offered for you or others—please fill out the yellow prayer request forms in the pew/chair racks. We do need personal permission to publish names, however.

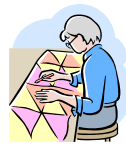
**Prayer Chain Request:** When you submit a request for prayers for someone on the Prayer Chain, please:

- 1.) Know that we'll keep that person on the Prayer Chain for 2 Weeks unless otherwise requested.
- 2.) Provide some feedback over those two weeks that can be passed along to those offering the prayers on the Prayer Chain. (i.e.- an update on the situation or persons condition).

*Thank You*

The family of Rita Maija Strautmane Marnauz would like to express their most sincere appreciation to Church of Our Saviour for the use of the Sanctuary and Stecker Hall. Also, the family would like to thank the staff of Church of Our Saviour for all their help.

Thank you to John and Linda Lepien for the beautiful dining room table for the parlor.



## QUILTERS NEED YOUR HELP!

We have one sewn quilt top. Could you please help us? Packages are in the basket on the table by the elevator. We usually put five quilts together on a Tuesday, so please consider giving this a try. Sewn tops may be brought to the church office.

**PICK N' SAVE WE CARE:** Remember to fill out a "We Care" card to have a percentage of your grocery bill go towards the youth of COOS. Our "WE CARE" number is 119200

### CHANGE OF ADDRESS REQUEST

Please let the church office know if you move **OR** if your **zip code** has been changed. We pay return postage between .50-\$1.50 per "Builder" or letter to have it returned to the office. You can either call the office @ 922-0020 with your new address or email us at [coosfdl@mcleodusa.net](mailto:coosfdl@mcleodusa.net) and let Sherri or Kay know.

**BUILDER ARTICLES** deadline is the 15th of each month. The Deadline for the Next Builder is; **Tuesday, June 15th**

(Articles are always welcome earlier in the month!).

**Remember! Please submit everything for Builder and announcements in electronic format, so we can integrate it for the website.**

The Builder is also available on the churches website at

[www.oursavioursfdl.org](http://www.oursavioursfdl.org)

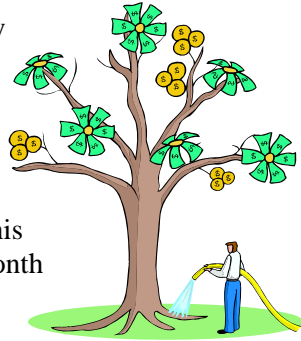
### FOR THE RECORD

**DEATHS:** 4/23/2010 Audrey Peterson  
5/12/2010 Will Pagel

**REMOVALS:** Sherri and Harvey Gysbers-Transfer to Ascension Lutheran Church.  
Joshua Gysbers-By own request

## NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR "OVER AND ABOVE" GIVING

As announced at the special congregational meeting on May 2, Congregation Council has approved a new, monthly "Over and Above" giving opportunity to address some of our ongoing needs and goals. A special envelope for this purpose will be mailed each month in *The Builder*, beginning with this edition.



### **Highlights of the Plan are as follows:**

**First, and most important:** *continue support of general budget* as you have in the past.

**Next,** prayerfully consider whether you can increase your gifts to the General Fund. An average 5% increase would allow us to meet our budget for 2009. If we can increase our overall giving average by 15%, we will both meet our current budget and be in a position to reinstate our staff salaries to their former levels next year.

**Third,** as you are able and willing, begin making a monthly "over and above" gift to support any or all of the following choices, as recommended by our Finance Ministry and approved by Congregation Council:

- **Benevolence:** These gifts will be ADDED to the amount already included in the general budget, and will be forwarded to the Synod Treasurer on a monthly basis.
- **Debt Reduction:** These gifts will be paid to National Exchange Bank at the end of each month to reduce the principal balance on our loan, over and above the scheduled monthly payment.
- **Special Projects:** These projects include improvements, repairs, and unfunded program needs, as approved and prioritized by the Congregation Council. Fully developed project proposals may be submitted by committees or individual members, using the Proposal Form available in the church office. A project list will be published in *The Builder* and posted on the bulletin board. Projects will not be started until they are fully funded, and any excess contributions will roll over to the next project on the list.

(Please note: this plan does NOT allow for individuals to create their own "wish list" for future expenditures that are not on the official list. Without restrictions, such a plan would turn into a bookkeeper's nightmare!!)

## SPECIAL PROJECTS

Operating as we have for many years on a tight and often deficit budget, special projects are sometimes necessary. Our congregation has a solid history of meeting the challenge when needs are identified and presented; in recent years that has included partial funding of the new roof, resurfacing of the parking lot, and numerous "over and above" gifts by individuals who identified and funded a particular need.

Building on that concept, we will now have an ongoing "Special Projects" fund, to underwrite a list of projects that will be approved and prioritized by the Congregation Council.

The **first project** for which we will collect funds is the installation of **two removable oak hand railings** to facilitate access to the chancel area (lectern and altar). The estimate for the completed project by Capelle Bros. & Diedrich, Inc. is \$1877.00, and the project will start as soon as that amount has been collected.

## SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING REPORT (May 2, 2010)

### **Stewardship outreach to inactive members:**

175 members were on the list to be contacted, and not all responses were in. Letters were sent first, with phone follow-up. Results to date:

- 110 could not be reached or did not return calls. This group will receive a final letter stating that if they do not respond within a given time limit, they will be reluctantly removed from the rolls.
- 13 requested a meeting or pastoral visit.
- 3 had joined another church.
- 16 had no interest or requested to be removed.
- 3 were "occasional members".
- 4 cited health problems for not being active.

It was noted we have 44 new members since 1/1/09, including 15 by baptism. Stewardship group was commended for their efforts and encouraged to follow up as appropriate.

**Financial status and budget:** remodeling and line of credit loans will be combined and refinanced with National Exchange at 5%, with a payment equal to previous scheduled and interest payments. To cover existing shortage and provide a cushion in checking account, the remaining \$8000 of line of credit will be rolled into the new loan. From then on, there will be no more borrowing to cover shortfalls, so congregation must realize that we have to support our budget!

A motion to approve the 2010 Budget for the remainder of 2010, as published in the annual reports, was passed with two "no" votes.

### **–The Lutheran–**

In summer, 2008, our congregation was enrolled in the Congregational Plan for **The Lutheran**, the official publication of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. In 2009 subscriptions were renewed for congregational leaders and all other active members who requested continuation.

Each subscription under the Congregational Plan costs \$7.95. (Individual subscriptions are \$17.95, so the group rate is a very good deal!) Original enrollment in the "Congregational Plan" was a gift from Congregation President Mary Arthur, and she has continued to underwrite the program over and above contributions received.

While not required, gifts toward the cost of your Congregational Plan subscription are appreciated. Mark your check or envelope "The Lutheran", or write "The Lutheran" in the "other" category on your weekly offering envelope.

If you are not currently receiving "The Lutheran" and would like to be added to the list, please contact Kay or Sherri at the church office.

**FIRST FOOTSTEPS IN FAITH:** The FFF children have continued their giving to the ELCA Good Gifts project. Since Christmas we have collected \$100.00. Thanks to a donation from the choir and a generous check from an anonymous COOS member, we are sending 20 chicks, 2 ducks, 2 pigs and a goat to God's Global Barnyard. We plan to continue this program in the fall.

## **FAITH, FRIENDS AND FELLOWSHIP**

Faithful and Courageous-Christians in Unsettling Times by Bishop Mark Hanson

Our Thursday afternoon and evening book discussion is taking a break during the summer months. Our journey, as we discussed this enlightening and yet very challenging book, authored by our ELCA Bishop, Mark Hanson, provided thoughtful, prayerful and reflective moments which encouraged us to fully embrace what it means to be a follower of Jesus during these most unsettling times. Our small group not only grew in our faith but also grew as a community of fellow sisters and brothers in Christ.

Linda Lepien shares "I love sharing God Moments. It helps you realize God is always with you. We just need to be more aware of His presence in our lives."

"The Bible/book studies are a wonderful way to help me grow in my faith. I am currently participating in the Thursday night and Saturday morning classes. I can come to just listen and learn, or if I wish to contribute and share my thoughts, I can do that comfortably and without judgment. I enjoy the laughter that comes from the fellowship and fun. I appreciate the support when there are tears, emotions and difficult situations. I really enjoy the variety of breakfast treats at the Saturday morning sessions. Yum!" shares Janet Halfman.

Our discussion will resume in the fall so watch for details in your August Builder. The book we will be reading and discussing is entitled *Our Lives Are Not Our Own* by Rochelle Melander and Harold Eppley. Our study will help we, as Lutheran Christians, to better understand "God's call to a life of accountability and how this accountability can be a blessing not a burden." We are excited about this faith opportunity as we seek to, more faithfully, live out our Baptismal calling. If you have questions or would like to order a book please see Connie Wisner.



**W.E.L.C.A.**

**COLLECTION:**

W.E.L.C.A. will be collecting materials for Layettes during the month of June. In refugee camps, hospitals, and villages around the world, gifts of LWR layettes, convey a warm welcome to newborns and their mothers. Stop by the W.E.L.C.A. display table in the hall to pick up more information relating to this worthwhile project. Leave your donation in the basket. If you prefer to donate money, please use a pew envelope marked "W.E.L.C.A.-Layettes"

**SOCIAL MINISTRY**

**APRIL 2010**

Change Jug \$10.04

**2010 YTD TOTAL**

\$412.65



**BIBLE STUDY**

**Monday, June 21<sup>st</sup>**

10:30 – Noon



Please join in the fellowship and share your insights every third Monday each month. We are a small group of interested, inspired people who meet in the gathering area to share reflections about the Bible and our own faith. **Everyone is Welcome!**

**XYZ**



**Monday, June 21<sup>st</sup>**

**NOON IN PARLOR**

Just Bring:

A dish to pass

Your own table setting

No need to sign up. Come, as you are able.

**ALL ARE WELCOME-YOUNG AND OLD!!!**

For a ride, please call 922-0020

**Church of Our Saviour  
Church Council 2010**

**Term Expires 2011**

Loraine Lepien: 922-3165

Dennis Mertens: 921-9672

Bob Miller: 921-1245

Ken Bengel: 923-3419

**Term Expires 2012**

Bart Christensen: 251-6494

Vice President - Steve Wilburn: 922-6532

**Term Expires 2013**

President - Mary Arthur: 579-1535

Andy Flatt: 929-8817

Dee Gremminger: 921-0540

Marabell Juedes

Secretary

Marcia Snyder

Treasurer

**COUNCIL LIAISONS for the COMMITTEES**

To insure good communication between the working committees of the church, Council members volunteered to attend committee meetings and bring a report to the Council. Following are the various committees and the Council liaison:

**EDUCATION:** Bart Christensen

**ENDOWMENT:** Marabell Juedes

**FINANCE:** Loraine Lepien and Marcia Synder

**PERSONNEL:** Mary Arthur

**PROPERTY:** Dennis Mertens and Steve Wilburn

**SOCIAL/EVANGELISM:** Ken Bengel, Andy Flatt, and Dee Gremminger

**STEWARDSHIP:** Bob Miller and Steve Wilburn

**WORSHIP & MUSIC:** Loraine Lepien

**YOUTH:** Andy Flatt

If you wish to participate on any of these committees or have a concern regarding any of them, speak to a liaison.

# Congregation Council Highlights for May, 2010

## Pastor's Report

- Dead Sea Scrolls trip was a great success with nearly 60 participants
- Oshkosh Conference meeting was held May 11 at Grace Lutheran in Berlin
- FdL Area Ministerial Assn (FAMA) will hold annual planning and elections conference at our church on May 20
- Jeremy Pressnell and Mary Ann Schibline were recommended for membership and approved by Council.
- Synod Assembly May 21-22 will be attended by Dave/Dolly Stuebs and Pastor.
- Friesland Men's Chorus was well-attended and received; thanks to all who helped. Free-will offering was \$438; will be designated for Synod Assembly offering.
- Council "mini-retreat" with Pr. Frank Maxwell at Presbyterian Church May 20; for supper, we will "chip in" for pizza and council members will bring the rest.

## Property Ministry

- Committee is working with John Townsend's office to minimize impact of new elevator inspection regulations
- City assessor has met with church reps regarding the presence of a "for-profit" business in our building (day care center); he will be reporting back after review of documents he requested.

## Finance Ministry

- see articles elsewhere in this Builder

## Worship & Music Ministry

- Altar candles (beeswax) are being replaced with permanent, oil-burning candles.
- Confirmation scheduled for Reformation Sunday
- Suggestion to switch to new ELW hymnal to be reviewed before fall
- Volunteer pianists will be sought to accompany hymn-singing at Thurs. evening worship during summer; liturgy will be spoken.
- Next healing service: June 20.

## Learning (Education) Ministry

- FFF sessions are finished for this spring
- VBS tentatively planned for 2nd week of August.

## Youth Ministry

- Brat fry / car wash scheduled May 22

## Social Ministry/Evangelism Ministry

- Would like to split back into two committees if enough volunteers can be found to serve.
- Committee desires to organize topics and speakers for Adult Forum starting in fall.
- Photo directories have arrived and will be distributed at Sunday service. Online version has errors; will be linked to our website as soon as it is corrected.
- Work is proceeding on historical display.
- Supply of "friendship register" pads is depleted. Council voted to return to using individual communion / visitor cards.

## Stewardship Ministry

- Committee will be addressing appropriate follow-up to recent inactive visitation campaign.

## CONTRIBUTIONS REPORT JANUARY 1 THROUGH APRIL 30, 2010

Contributions needed per week  
to meet 2010 budget: \$4,488

<i>Contributions needed thru April 30</i>	<i>Contributions received thru April 30</i>	<i>Difference</i>
\$ 76,296.00	\$ 70,462.00	(5,834.00)