

# Love!

*Dear family of faith,*

*When people think about February, because of Valentine's Day, they often think about love or about being in love. They often have a certain person in mind – someone they love; someone who loves them in return.*

*The Scriptures remind us that "we love because He first loved us!" In fact the whole Bible is God's love letter to us! It tells us of the Father's love, that caused Him to send His beloved Son into the world in order to save us. It tells of the love of Christ, Who gave His life to save us. And it tells of the Spirit, Who empowers us to love as we have been loved.*

*God's love is perfect and unconditional. Our love is all too often imperfect and conditional. We don't love God with our whole heart and neither do we love our neighbor as ourselves. We can be unloving and unlovable. That is precisely why we need God's love.*

*By the power of His Spirit, God can soften our hardened hearts of stone and give us hearts of flesh that beat with compassion for others. Having experienced His love mercy, it is natural for us to want to pass it one to others.*

*"Beloved, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed His love among us: He sent His one and only Son into the world that we might live through Him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and His love is made complete in us." 1 Jn 4:7-12*

*This Valentine's Day may you be thinking of Him & His love!*      **Pastor Loy**

**FEBRUARY****SERMON****THEMES**

- Feb. 5 Jesus Heals Many  
 Feb. 12 "To God be the Glory!"  
 Feb. 19 "How Can I Be Transformed?"  
 Feb. 26 "Six Shades of Purple"

***7&7: The old is gone; the New has come***

A Lenten series on the 7 deadly sins

Each year, the people of God have the opportunity to embark on a journey of faith during the season we call LENT. This journey of faith leads us once again past the foot of the cross to the empty tomb. The journey is a familiar one – we have walked this way many times before. Yet each year there is something new that we see along the way.

One of the special traditions of Lent is to have Wednesday services, beginning with Ash Wednesday. The Wednesday sermon series this year will be "***7 & 7: The old is gone; the New has come***". Each week we will look at one of the "7 deadly sins" and its corresponding virtue. As the Spirit works in us, making us new, our lives are transformed. The old is gone; the New has come!

- Ash Wednesday Feb. 22  
 From **PRIDE** to **Humility**  
 Midweek Lent II Feb. 29  
 From **ENVY** to **Contentment**  
 Midweek Lent III Mar. 7  
 From **WRATH** to **Meekness**  
 Midweek Lent IV Mar. 14  
 From **SLOTH** to **Obedience**  
 Midweek Lent V Mar. 21  
 From **GREED** to **Generosity**  
 Midweek Mar. 28  
 From **GLUTTONY** to Temperance

Lent is a penitential season. This series will help you take personal inventory of your life. It will help you identify those places in your life that are not as they should be. The messages are designed to help you see how your sins break your relationship to God and how they break your relationships with your fellow believers. It is because of sins like these that

Jesus had to die! The Good News for us is that Christ chose the nails of the cross so that forgiveness could be ours, so that we could be made new!

Plan now to join us on this powerful Lenten series. The special services will be offered each Wednesday at 1:00 pm and 7:00 pm. There will be a meal at 6:00 so that you don't have to prepare one at home. Be sure to sign up so that we know how many to prepare for.

**LENTEN TRADITIONS**

Lent is a season set aside to focus on the passion and suffering of our Lord Jesus. It is one of the two penitential seasons of the church year. It is a time for the people of God to struggle with greater intensity against everything that has to do with sin and death. To help us do so, the church has developed many Lenten traditions.

On Ash Wednesday, and each Wednesday in Lent, there are special **lenten worship services** designed to help focus our attention.

Special **lenten devotional booklets** are prepared to help families spend some extra time each day in God's Word.

Because of the penitential nature of the season, the **lenten decorations** tend to be rather stark and frequently focus on the cross. Some churches have the tradition that no flowers are placed on the altar during this season.

Special **lenten hymns** are of a more somber sound. Many of these hymns, like "O Sacred Head Now Wounded" or "Stricken, Smitten and Afflicted" or "O Dearest Jesus" are sung only during the season of Lent or during the special services during Holy Week.

**Holy Week** is significant on the church calendar. It begins with **Palm Sunday**, the Sunday prior to Easter. **Maundy Thursday** commemorates the institution of the Lord's Supper. **Good Friday** commemorates Jesus' death for us on the cross. Holy Week builds to the climax of **Easter**, the festival of our Lord's Resurrection.

Many Christians have the personal tradition of **giving something up** during the season of Lent, to remind them of all Christ gave up for us. It is equally appropriate to **take something on** that you have wanted to do but have not been able to do at other times of the year.

## Liturgy ... Did You Know?

The Lutheran church is a liturgical church. That simply means that we follow a structure or pattern in our worship that has been handed down to us. In these articles we will take a look at some of the liturgical traditions that will help you to better understand our worship.

## MEMORIZING SCRIPTURE ... THE BEST 'APP' EVER!

The Education Commission is recommending that in 2012 we all commit one Bible verse to memory each month. We'll use the ones already selected for the Cherubs, so they won't be long or complicated. By December we can have 12 verses memorized! Will you join us?

**FEBRUARY'S Verse:** Matthew 6:33

"But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you".

## UPCOMING DATES TO MARK ON YOUR CALENDAR

### KOINE'

Coming to Our Savior Lutheran Church a free concert you won't want to miss. Be sure to invite your friends, family and neighbors! Families, bring the kids they do part of their concert for the kids! So mark your calendars and plan on coming Friday, April 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

### SPRING RUMMAGE SALE

April 19-21

### LIFE LINE SCREENING

April 24, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

## STEWARDSHIP

The results of the commitment drive were 87 commitment forms turned in covering 57% of the budget. Thank you. If you missed the opportunity on Commitment Sunday to turn in your commitment form you may still do so. We would appreciate your cooperation in this to aid in our planning for the coming year.

Please make and follow through on your commitments to attend worship, study the Bible, give financially, and to serve the Lord.

*Bob Lemke, Stewardship Chairman*

## ELDER MEET AND GREET

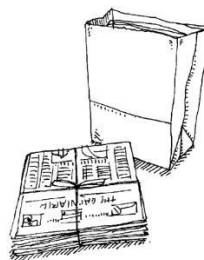
February - Duane Wakeman (6) & John Rybolt (16)

March - Ron Johnson (8) and Mark Richardson (7)

April - Tim Dietel (14) and Greg Kaumeyer (1)

May God continue to bless you and your family.

Jim Jones, Elder Chairman



### A Recycling Challenge!

We normally collect almost 4 tons of paper each month. If we collect 4 tons or more the amount of money we earn will triple. Are you bringing ALL your paper to the recycle bin? Do you have a friend or neighbor who might save their papers for you? Please help us save more trees and at the same time triple our earnings. Any questions? Call Denise at 723-7664.

## Thank you!

Rob and I would like to thank the Pastors for their support during the last three weeks. It was helpful beyond words. We would also like to thank all our friends who thought of us, prayed for us, and sent cards. Thanks to all of our Church family.

*Rob & Kathy Roginski*

I would like to thank the congregation and Pastor Bowman for their care, concern and prayers when I was taken to the hospital on Christmas Day. It was comforting to know we have church family always ready to help in time of need. Thank you and God bless each and everyone.

*Ruth Koppen*

### SYMPATHY

**Dennis Roginski**, brother of Rob (Kathy) Roginski was called home to the Lord on Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Mildred Pollak** (90), aunt of Bob (Kathy) Drzik was called home to the Lord on Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>.

**John Carlson**, brother of Kathy (John) Knoop was called to his heavenly home on January 16<sup>th</sup> in Minnesota.

**Douglas Ziech** (67), was called to his heavenly home on January 18<sup>th</sup>. The Christian Service was held at Our Savior on January 21<sup>st</sup> with Pastor Schlote officiating.

**Jonathan Mersereau** (73) was called to his heavenly home on January 24<sup>th</sup>. His wife Lois is planning to have a memorial service sometime in the spring.

We extend our Christian love and sympathy to the members of their families.

### HOSPITALIZED IN JANUARY

Norma Riley, Corwin Johnson, Kate Pollock, Ricky Hamilton, Ruth Koppen, Gladys Lauffenburger, Helen Fox, Mary Lee Repko, Robin Benson, Jennifer Brockman, Betty Jo Kelly

### BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS

Alaina Bartolo.....	2/1/2003
Olivia Bartolo.....	2/1/2003
Robert Gleason.....	2/2/2002
Samuel Trafton.....	2/15/2003
Marla Slaboszewski.....	2/16/2002
Faith Jones.....	2/20/2005
Katie Scears.....	2/20/2010
William Blankenship.....	2/22/2005
Dominic Bennett.....	2/24/2002
Samantha Jessen.....	2/26/2005
Alexa Olson.....	2/29/2004

### BIRTHS

Mike and Hillary Weis were blessed with the gift of a daughter **Vivienne Irene Weis** on December 8<sup>th</sup>. Vivienne was welcomed home by her big sister Analise.

William and Jennifer Brockman were blessed with the gift of a son **Dwane Ervin Brockman** on January 23<sup>rd</sup>. Dwane was welcomed home by his big brother Keane.

### BAPTISM

**Adrian Robert Gilbert** son of L.C. Gilbert and Annmarie Brown received the sacrament of Holy Baptism January 8th.

## SENIOR FELLOWSHIP

February 29<sup>th</sup>, 11:30 a.m.



We will have a lite luncheon followed by a presentation and samples by Karen and Dennis Knutsen of Knutsen Country Harvest Orchard.



## WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Ladies, we will hold our February meeting on Saturday Feb. 4 at 10:30am in Mitschke Hall in lieu of our usual Tuesday night meeting. We will be assembling Valentine cards for our shut-ins.

Looking ahead, we are planning on holding our annual BAKE SALE on April 19,20, and 21, to correspond with the church rummage sale. Please mark the dates. We need volunteers to bake items and also to help man our tables during the rummage sale hours.

Many thanks to Virginia Lemke and Donna Beckett for being our hostesses last month. We enjoyed playing "The Right Family" game that Virginia had brought, and a wonderful devotion on eating right at the Holidays: Nuts (low in sodium and high in protein), fruits (for Vitamin C), popcorn (for whole grains), apples/cheese (for calcium), and dried fruit (for fiber). We tied a total of 13 beautiful quilts supplied by our quilting group. Many thanks to the Wakemans for bringing the quilts over to the church for us to work on, and also to the quilting group for all their efforts behind the scenes at making the quilts!

In March, we would like to get a group of ladies to attend the Lenten Inspirations being held at Hope Church in Shorewood on Saturday, March 24 from 9am-2pm. Please take an application from our board to send in for reservations. We can car pool if you contact Kathy Harringer or Karla Jessen. If you cannot make this date, an alternate date is available earlier in March. Please see our board for more details.

## MARRIAGE WEEKEND GETAWAY

FamilyLife ministries has several area Weekend to Remember Getaways coming up in March and April. The weekend provides a lot of helpful tips for marriage and has special materials for pre-marrieds, First Responders, re-marrieds and Military families. The weekend will guide your marriage through Biblical values that can be used whether you are just beginning life as a couple or have been married for 50 years, it also has tips that can help a marriage to grow no matter what shape it is in.

Some area locations are:

Oak Brook	03/09/2012 thru 03/11/2012
Lincolnshire	03/23/2012 thru 03/25/2012
Normal	03/30/2012 thru 04/01/2012
Davenport	04/20/2012 thru 04/22/2012

If you or someone you know would like to attend one of these weekends or any other weekend across the country, please visit our web page at [www.familylife.com/groups/wallieanddianesharp](http://www.familylife.com/groups/wallieanddianesharp) and use the group code of WallieAndDianeSharp at least 2 days before the conference, to receive a \$159 discount to the conference. If you need more information, please call Wallie and Diane at 815-741-1794. Brochures are available on the table outside the church office.

## LIBRARY

“Let it now let it snow”!! Did you know this about God’s creation! The world’s largest known snowflake was 15 inches wide and 8 inches thick. It was found in Fort Flogh, Montana in 1887. We thank God for His wonderful creation that helps us praise His name.

### GOD SQUAD

We will be meeting in February on Wed. Feb 1 and Feb 15, 4:15 - 6:15pm at the ARK. We are currently reading about Creation, and also enjoying a story from the “What Would Jesus Do?” series. All 3<sup>rd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> graders are welcome. Please come and enjoy snacks and a great chance at fellowship. Friends are always welcome!

## Our Savior Lutheran Preschool and Kindergarten Spaghetti Dinner Rescheduled

Due to the bad weather on January 20<sup>th</sup> the dinner had to be rescheduled for Friday, February 10<sup>th</sup> from 5:00-7:00 p.m. Cost is \$5 for adults, \$3 for children 3-12 and free for children 2 and under. Please make reservations by e-mailing [oslp@sbcglobal.net](mailto:oslp@sbcglobal.net) or calling 815-725-1688. There is also a sign up sheet in the ministry hallway.

## OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN PRESCHOOL AND KINDERGARTEN

Oh the weather outside is frightful....Yes, January has brought it's fair share of cold and snowy weather, but the students of Our Savior Lutheran Preschool and Kindergarten find lots to love about winter. After the Christmas break students learned about snow and winter. They learned how each snow flake is different, made by God to be as individual as we are. God makes us each have special and significant differences that come together in the preschool classroom. We made are projects about snow, we read about it, talked about it and finally...it snowed!

In addition, the students participated in a PJ & Pizza Day! Parents and Teachers helped the students make home made pizza! Everyone wore PJ's to school. The Bible story taught us how God created day and night. Fun was had by all!

February will bring our unit on Community Helpers. We will invite and encourage parents to come to school to share their occupation with the students. We will also talk about helpers in our community such as: police officers, fire fighters, Dr's, nurses, dentists, etc. OSLP&K will also participate in a Hop-a-Thon on Feb. 9 & 10 were students and their families can help children with muscular dystrophy through MDA. This is an opportunity to help others while appreciating our own God given healthy bodies!

Registration for the 2012/2013 school year is currently in process. The School Board approved the expansion of our Kindergarten Class hours to 9:00 to 2:00 Monday through Friday. The response has been very positive! An additional opportunity for our 3 year olds students is provided through a M/W/F class as well as the traditional T/Th classes. 4 year old students have the opportunity to attend 3, 4 or 5 days a week, as well.

If you know of anyone who might be interested in our programs please have them contact the school office at 815-725-1688 or e-mail us at [oslp@sbcglobal.net](mailto:oslp@sbcglobal.net) or see our website [www.lutheransonline.com/oursaviorlutheran/oslpk](http://www.lutheransonline.com/oursaviorlutheran/oslpk).

We will soon be launching our new website with a new address [www.oursaviorlutheranpk.com](http://www.oursaviorlutheranpk.com)

Look for more news about that next month!

Friends in Christ,  
Mrs. Tori Hicks, Director

## LYF and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

SuperBowl Party  
at the Grant's  
Sunday, February 5<sup>th</sup>  
5:00 p.m.

Sign up in the Ministry Hallway. There is no cost for this just bring a snack to share.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Youth Night

February 19<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 p.m.

Come and join us for an evening of fun and fellowship.

### YOUTH EVENT

Mark your calendar and invite some friends for a fun concert event in Champaign, Illinois. The "Winter Jam" concert is March 31<sup>st</sup>. We will meet at church at 1:15 p.m. You will need to bring money for supper and a couple of dollars to help with gas. If you have any questions, contact Pam Ellison.

### ONE BY YOUTH

#### MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!

A One Day Youth Mission event is coming to Chicago on Saturday, May 5, 2012. The Big Day of Serving is a single-day service event just for youth. Your kids will serve with other teens in Chicago. They'll paint, tackle minor home repairs, landscape, clean schools and more. Watch the Voice and the Sunday bulletin for further details.

## JYF

**2012 Walcamp Junior High Winter Retreat**  
**Saturday, March 24 &**  
**Sunday March 25, 2012**

The theme this year for the Junior High (6-8 grades) retreat at Walcamp is "The Edge" Participants will receive a T-shirt with the theme logo on it. We have registered for 20 youth to go, please sign up on the JYF bulletin board in the Ministry Hall.

The family cost this year will be \$50.00 per person. Registration monies will be collected in February, rummage sale accounts maybe used to help defray costs. Please put your monies in an envelope marked **WALCAMP** and put it in the Youth Box outside of Pastor Bowman's office.

**There will be outside activities and it is important for the kids to bring warm clothes and boots because if there is not snow on the ground it can get very muddy.**

Time: Sat. Morning March 24 - meet at church by 6:15 a.m. (New Time)

Sun. Afternoon March 25 - approximate time of return is noon, cell phones will be used to call parents also.

**What to bring:** Warm clothes for outside, boots, sleeping bags and pillows (packed in large black garbage bag), warm P.J.'s, toiletries, inside clothes, **Bibles with name in it**, slippers for inside the lodge and also the cabins. **No shoes are allowed in either the lodge or the cabins.** Also needed is money for snacks, Sunday offering, and lunch at McDonald's on the way home at the I-88 oasis.

**What not to bring:** Food/candy, there are creatures that show up and will help themselves. Walcamp authorities **do not want food/candy brought to the retreat.**

Please be sure and eat breakfast before you come because we will not eat until lunch time.

## Walking Together With One Heart

Robert Harringer, President

### Patches

*'I was born and raised down in Alabama; On a farm way back up in the woods; I was so ragged the kids would call me patches.....'* lyrics that begin a famous song by artist, Clarence Carter. I remember patches too – the kind your mother would sew on your clothes when you wore a hole in the knees of your pants, or the elbows of your shirt. My brother and I spent most of our time on knees and elbows; so mom was kept pretty busy patching our clothes – a task not high on her list of things to do, as I recall from the occasional swat after a particularly nasty rip!

Sometimes it seems we follow a 'patches' theology – the thought that if we patch-over the sin in our lives, the hole doesn't exist anymore! God does not call us to a 'patches theology' – as Christians we are not called to patch our old way of life, but to be made new again by the power of the Holy Spirit. Paul says this in 2 Corinthians: *'Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation.'*

If you take an old, well-worn garment that has a hole and patch it with a piece of new material that has never been washed, your patch will rip a larger hole in the garment. Hebrews 12 says: *'let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.'* Lord, by the power of Your Holy Spirit, create a new heart and renew a right spirit within me! Galatians 6:14-16 *'May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. Neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything; what counts is a new creation. Peace and mercy to all who follow this rule, even to the Israel of God.'*