

# Network

## OUR SAVIOUR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

300 Logan Street · Merrill, WI 54452

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## FROM THE PASTOR

### Love is in the Air!

“See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. “

~ 1 John 3:1-2

Valentine's Day is just around the corner! It's that day when we celebrate the gift of love, and the love that binds our relationships with that “special someone” in our lives. Flowers, cards, candy, and other gifts are often given on this day, to “show someone how much we love them.”

But what makes that one day so special? Are the rest of the days are less special than Feb. 14? Certainly not! Yet we celebrate Love this day, remembering that love is there all year round.

February is a special time for the life of the church as well. We begin the season of Lent, when we taste and see and experience the depth of God's love for us. We will taste the meal that Jesus shares with his disciples. We will watch as he is arrested, sentenced, beaten, stripped, and crucified for us. We will see his lifeless body placed in a stone-cold tomb. And we will sing for Joy as the angels proclaim, “He is not here. He is risen, as he said.”

In these acts, we see the lengths that our God goes to in order to restore us into right relationship with our Creator. God isn't content to let us wander away, but tracks us down wherever we may wander, not wanting us to suffer, but to trust in God's loving, strengthening embrace.

Won't you journey with Jesus this Lent? Won't you “come and see” the dreams that God has in store for you? Won't you listen for God's voice calling you this season? God's blessings to you, as you seek to be faithful in your life of discipleship.

God's peace,  
Pastor Maurice

## Blood Donors

The following donors donated at Good Samaritan Hospital between 12/5/2011-1/2/2012

Eugene Bondioli  
 Wilbert Boyd  
 Scott Doerr  
 Shirley Engel  
 Barbara Gremler  
 Sue Harris

Michael Jirovec  
 Sharon Krause  
 Corrine Larkee  
 Bea Lebal  
 Brenda Mueller  
 Steve Peterson  
 Brian Rasmussen  
 Kathleen Roggenbuck  
 Renee Semling  
 Greg Smith

Joy Sorenson  
 Roger Williams  
 Thank you to all the donors for being lifesavers.



In memory of Linda Osness from Linda Osness Memorial Account for Projection System

### 12-11-11

In memory of Allen Osness from Lindy & Lee Ann Lindquist for Broadcasts

In memory of Allen Osness from Friends for Youth

In memory of Allen Osness from Walter & Betty Latzig for Projector Screen

In memory of Bertha Hehling from Shirley Henkelman for New Basement Flooring

### 12-18-11

In memory of Allen Osness from Raymond & Darlene Osness for Christmas Broadcast & Youth Program

In memory of Bertha Hehling from Fay Marsceau & Marlene Graap for Compassion Child

In memory of Allen Osness from Jerrald & Debbie Laak and David & Carol Finanger, Undesignated

In memory of Bertha Hehling from Marion Anderson for Mission Sewing

### 12-25-11

In memory of Bertha Hehling from Harriet Torkelson, Undesignated

In memory of Bertha Hehling from Della Nelson for Basement Flooring

In memory of Jessub Roger Maahs from Roger & Marion Anderson for Choir Music

In memory of Bertha Hehling from Dan & Ruth Lau for Mission Sewing

In memory of Bertha Hehling from Lindy & Lee Ann Lindquist, Gene & Karleen Bebel, Jean Lagerbloom & Verna Schaefer for Choir Music

In memory of Bertha Hehling from Virginia Severt for Deacon's Fund

In memory of Bertha Hehling from Charlotte Peters, Yvonne Mann & Arlette Mitchell, Undesignated

### 1-8-12

In memory of Bertha Hehling from Hank & Pat Zomchek for Confirmation Camp

In memory of John English from Shirley Henkelman for New Basement Flooring

In memory of John English from Marge Teske for Deacon's Fund

In memory of John English from Roger & Marion Anderson for Food Pantry

In memory of John English from Dave & Carol Finanger for Choir Music

### 1-15-12

In memory of Linda Osness from Harriet Torkelson for Projection System

In memory of John English from Elsie Newman for Choir Music

In memory of Bertha Hehling from Jerry & Ann Wick for Mission Sewing

## Memorials

### 12-5-11

In memory of Allen Osness from Rich & Elayne Ollmann & Family for Projection Fund

In memory of Allen Osness from Ron & Cindy Wilson for Youth Group

In memory of Allen Osness from Shirley Henkelman for New Basement Flooring

## Baptisms

December 11, 2011  
 Jozette Joyce Busterud  
 Daughter of Timothy & Julia (Eggebrecht) Busterud

December 18, 2011  
 Aria Ann Alsteens  
 Daughter of Jerome Alsteens & Amber Bartz

## Funerals

December 8, 2011  
 Bertha Hehling  
 Funeral—December 14, 2011

January 1, 2012  
 John English  
 Funeral—January 4, 2012

# February 2012 Birthdays

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 John Albert Dixie Oberg		3 Audrey Germic Robert Johnson Jason Zoellner	4 Honna Hinzman Sara Weix
5 Brittany Bowen	6 Shannan McMenamin	7 Ceil Boyd Tim Burton Christian Halbach Jeanne Lambrecht	8 Tammy Harmon Herman Zunker	9 Ed Gruett Derek Krause Ryan Leyk	10	11 Riley Bienfang Julia Ionel Diane Osness Mark Zulliger
12 Macy Athanasiou Sebastiano Ollmann-Sitton Jay Peterson	13 Noble Hildebrand Sarah Jaeger Irene Learman Michael North	14 Nancy Graupman Arlette Gruetzmacher Betty Pyatt	15 Earleen Fox Roxanne Lee Norman Luedtke	16 Ashley Block Betty Lange	17 Judi Johnson Joy Sorensen	18 Marilyn Jirovec John Pintens
19 Courtney Pagel	20 Becky Baade Ruth Scharbius Jayden Woller	21 Daniel Hagedorn Fred Stevens Karen Tomaszewski	22 Bill Jaeger	23 Ryan Blake Benjamin Haring Gerald Muschinske Cali Rogers	24 Thomas Michalski Laura Schleif	25 Todd Mann Alex Mulford Kyle Semling
26 Logan Grawien	27 Ashley Buhse Alec Hepp Rory Jirovec Triston Kiefer Jayden Neiter Jenny Thorson Ann Verdoorn Warren Weckwerth	28 Allison Hunter Stacey Lipke	29			

## ODDS & ENDS

### Dessert Feast Thank You

If you attended the event, you know that the desserts were aplenty and the Identity Theft presentation very informative. I don't think anyone left not having learned at least one or two (maybe even three) things they didn't know before the event started. We had great fellowship and a lot of fun. We sure missed those of you that did not have the opportunity to attend.

We will have the pleasure of presenting St Vincent's with a combination of funds collected as a free-will offering and an approved application of money through the Thrivent Care Abounds Program totaling \$332. This money will help support their efforts to meet the needs of our community.

Thank you for attending and being part of this event and we look forward to the next "great event" together.

The Stewardship Team

### A Valentine Gift for Both of You

Leave the rest of the world behind and enjoy some quality time for just the two of you on a Lutheran Marriage Encounter weekend. You'll spend two nights in a comfortable hotel and enjoy five delicious meals from Friday at

7:00 PM to Sunday at 5:00 PM.

Engaging presentations by four Lutheran couples, including a clergy couple, give you valuable tools and information which are followed by exercises and questions the two of you discuss in the privacy of your hotel room. There is no counseling or required sharing.

The Spring Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekends in Minnesota are February 10-12 in Brooklyn Center, March 23-25 in Duluth and May 4-6 in Walker. Please register several weeks in advance.

For more information, contact Dick & Judy Dehnel at 952-432-3105, Pete & Phyllis McMahon at 763-561-1575 or visit [www.godlovesmarriage.org](http://www.godlovesmarriage.org).

### Rediscover Your Marriage

Retrouvaille (pronounced retro-vi with a long i) simply means 'rediscovery'. The program offers the chance to rediscover yourself, your spouse, and a loving relationship in your marriage.

10's of 1000's headed for divorce have successfully saved their marriages by attending.

Retrouvaille is a not spiritual retreat, not a sensitivity group, not a seminar, not a social gathering. For confidential information about or to register for the program

beginning with a weekend on February 17-19, 2012 call 877-922-HOPE (4673) or email: [centralwi@retrouvaille.org](mailto:centralwi@retrouvaille.org) or visit the website at [www.HelpOurMarriage.com](http://www.HelpOurMarriage.com)

### Senior Fellowship Gathering

The topic is "*Long-term Care Planning*" and is being presented by Kevin Tobak with Planning Concepts. This is not just for senior citizens. Bring a light snack to share. This event is taking place February 3-5 at Radisson Paper Valley Hotel, Appleton. Call 920/733-9135 for details.

## Full-Time Staff

### Pastor

**Pastor Maurice Schaus**

### Youth & Family Director

**Jamie Diestelhorst**

### Editor/Office Secretary

**Rebecca Burgener**

### Custodian

**Tim Ruprecht**

**NETWORK articles are due on or before the 15th of each month.**

## ODDS & ENDS

### Remember That You Are Dust.

The Season of Lent begins with the observation of Ash Wednesday, February 22. On this day, we remember our frail humanity with God's words to the first humans, "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." The season of Lent reminds us of our brokenness, and our need for God's grace and forgiveness. As we journey through Lent, midweek worship services point us to the cross, to Jesus' gift of love for us. Midweek services will be offered each Wednesday in Lent at 11:00am and 6:30pm, beginning February 22, and running through March 28. These services help us prepare for Easter, and to strengthen our relationship with God and the people of God. Plan to be a part of this meaningful Lenten discipline.

### Remember That Hymn We Used To Love . . .

Our Christian tradition has been blessed with a vast array of songs and hymns that sing praise to our God and King. Our Gray hymnals offer many of these hymns that we love to sing, but don't often get the chance to. Join us for worship the weekend of

February 11 & 12 as we "get the gray out" and sing from these hymnals.

In preparation for this celebration, Pastor would like your help selecting music for the service. Write down your name and your suggestion, and drop it by the office or in the offering plate. We will attempt to use your suggestion for this or later "Gray book" services. "Oh, come, let us sing to the Lord..." (Ps. ???)

### Holy Communion Instruction To Be Offered During Lent

Pastor will be offering a session of Holy Communion Instruction classes during the Lenten season, and wants to make sure that everyone knows about the classes. Our Saviour's typically offers classes to the Fifth Grade Sunday School students, so that they might receive their First Communion, though younger students are welcome to attend, if the parents feel that the children are ready. Pastor will be sending out a letter soon with specifics of class times, dates, etc. If you know someone who would like to participate in this class, please drop a note by the office, so that we can send them a letter of invitation. Pray for

these young people, as they take on a greater part in living and learning their faith!

### Fish Fries

The Lutheran Men in Mission will again provide Fish Fries on Wednesday evenings during Lent, beginning Ash Wednesday, February 22, 2012. The meal will begin at 5:00 PM as usual so anyone will be able to attend the Lenten evening service. We have a sign up sheet for each week and are looking for volunteers to help with all the details of providing the necessary tasks to make this another enjoyable and successful event. Let's have a good time. If you have questions, call Irv Bork at 715-873-4640.

### Softball 2012

The 2012 softball season will be here before you know it. The sign up sheet is on the hall bulletin board. We won the division championship last year. Any 2011 team member that has not received their medal from last year, please contact Dean Hill @ 715-574-3008 or DHilltrucks@aol.com.

**Our Saviour's Scrip Order Form**

Name _____				Date _____			
ON HAND				SPECIAL ORDER			
		Qty	Total			Qty	Total
GROCERIES				GROCERIES			
Cty Market - 5%	\$25/50/100			HEB - 2%	\$100		
Drew's PW - 6%	\$25/50/100						
RESTAURANTS				RESTAURANTS			
2510 - 7%	\$15			Arby's - 8%	\$10		
3's Company - 5%	\$10			Applebee's - 8%	\$25		
Champs - 10%	\$10			Cracker Barrel - 9%	\$10		
Chips - 10%	\$5			Domino's - 5%	\$5		
Club 64 - 5%	\$10			Tex Roadhouse - 8%	\$25		
Culver's - 5%	\$10						
Dairy Queen - 20%	\$10/20			CLOTHING			
1st St. Coffee - 5%	\$5			Aeropostale - 7%	\$25		
KFC - 8%	\$5			Am. Eagle - 9%	\$25		
McDonald's - 5%	\$5			Dress Barn - 8%	\$25		
Olive Garden - 9%	\$25			Footlocker - 9%	\$25		
Pizza Hut - 8%	\$10			Gap/Old Navy/BR - 9%	\$25		
Starbucks - 9%	\$10			Gordman's - 7%	\$25		
Subway - 3%	\$10			JCPenney - 5%	\$25		
				K-Mart - 4%	\$25		
FUEL				Maurice's - 7%	\$20		
BP - 2%	\$50			Payless Shoes - 13%	\$20		
Holiday - 5%	\$25/50			Shopko - 2%	\$25/50		
Kwik Trip - 9%	\$25			TJ Maxx - 7%	\$25		
Murphy's - 5%	\$20			Yunker's - 8%	\$25		
MISCELLANEOUS				MISCELLANEOUS			
Barnes & Noble - 9%	\$10			Bed/Bath/Beyond - 7%	\$25		
Bath & Body - 13%	\$10			Best Buy - 3%	\$25/100		
Cosmo - 10%	\$5/7			Cabela's - 11%	\$25		
Fleet Farm - 5%	\$25/50			Claire's - 9%	\$10		
Gander Mt - 8%	\$25			Family Video - 12%	\$10		
Hallmark - 4%	\$25			Home Depot - 4%	\$25/100		
Joanne Fabrics - 6%	\$20			Icing - 9%	\$10		
Kohl's - 6%	\$25			Lowe's - 4%	\$25		
Walgreen's - 6%	\$25/100			Menard's - 3%	\$25/100		
Walmart - 2%	\$25/100			Office Max - 5%	\$25		
				Pier One Imports - 9%	\$25		
				Sears - 4%	\$25/100		
The following stores offer a check to Our Saviour's:				*Other stores may also be available - ask your			
Courtside Furniture - 4% (No Credit Card Purchases)				seller for details			
Miller Furniture - 4% (No Credit Card Purchases							
Central Carpet - 5% up to \$2000 (No installation or other special discounts							
Hargrave Appliances - 3%							

## The Upper Room

The first and second Thursdays, February through May, all women are invited to participate in the Wisdom Circle. Come and share with other women your life experiences that have helped you along the way. February's topic is "Dealing with Stress." Informal discussions will take place over coffee from 9—10 AM. No charge Freewill offering is suggested.

Grains of Wheat meets on the third and fourth Thursdays of each month from 9—10 AM. It begins with a short prayer/ reflection followed by coffee, bread and good conversation. No charge. Freewill offering is suggested.

Thursday, February 2, from 6:30—8:00 PM, the Wisconsin Women's Health Foundation GrapeVine Project will present information and share resources on women's heart health. No charge. Freewill offering is suggested. This session will be held at Ascension Episcopal Church, corner of Pier and Third Streets, and is handicap accessible.

Monday, February 6 and 13, 6:30— 8:00 PM, Rachel Paulson will conduct a bible study on Esther, one of the few prominent women in Jewish history. See what Esther has to teach women today. Suggested donation of \$20 for both sessions.

Saturday, February 11, from 9:00—11:00 AM, craft a beautiful "Footprints" necklace for yourself or to give away as a Valentine gift. No jewelry making experience is necessary. Cost is \$30 and includes all materials. This session will be held at Ascension Episcopal Church, corner of Pier and Third Streets, and is handicap accessible. To register call 715-432-1261 or 715-536-4561 or email [pausesforyou@frontier.com](mailto:pausesforyou@frontier.com).

The Upper Room is located at 1004 ½ E. Main St. Merrill.

## An Invitation

I would like to invite you to join in a new community ministry from Ascension Episcopal Church on 3<sup>rd</sup> & Pier. It will compliment the Merrill Food Pantry Ministry and it is something everyone can participate in! As you may know, people who receive food stamps can only buy food with those

stamps. Yet we all use so much more than food in our daily lives. Much of our grocery store basket contains other things such as soap, laundry detergent, cleaning supplies, deodorant, shampoo, toothpaste or tooth brushes, baby diapers, Kleenex, paper towels, personal hygiene products, dishwashing liquid—the list goes on and on. We call these things essentials. We would like to see if, as a community, we could provide some of these things for those who do not have the extra money to buy them. Ascension's young people have decorated some boxes for this project with a list of suggested items attached. You will find the box in the back of the Church. The food pantry has agreed to be responsible for the distribution of these necessities. Thank you for your thoughtfulness and generosity and God bless you!

Deacon Linda Schmidt



## Our Saviour's Lutheran Church Congregation Council Meeting

**December 12, 2011**

**PRESENT:** Pastor Maurice Schaus, Shannon Cortright, Shirley Mitchell, Rebecca Burgener, Carie Truckey, Tina Kiefer, Russ Leyk, Cindy Wilson, Charlotte Peters, Anne Torkelson, and Norm Hanson

**EXCUSED:** Patti Lutzke and Dan Szulczewski

Meeting called to order by Russ Leyk.

Pastor Schaus gave opening Devotions. The question was passed to Council members "If Jesus was to give you a gift today what would it be and why?" Council members then gave their responses.

The Secretary's report was reviewed. Shirley moved to accept the report as printed, and Tina seconded the motion. The motion passed

The Financial report was reviewed. Benevolence is nearly at goal for the year. The bills are all current. There is nothing too large outstanding. Discussion was held regarding the unused continuing education funds. Charlotte moved that the continuing education funds be rolled over into the 2012 budget for Pastor Schaus and Jamie. Shirley seconded the motion, and the motion passed. Pastor Schaus and Rebecca abstained from voting. Rebecca moved to accept the Financial report. Anne seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

**Team Reports:**  
**Christian Education**

No Council action required.

**Outreach**

The Christmas Spirit Appeal was a great success.

**Property & Maintenance**

No Council action required.

**Stewardship**

No Council action required.

**Worship & Music**

No Council action required.

**Youth & Family**

No Council action required.

**Pastor's Report**

At this time Pastor is working on the Christmas services. He is continuing his involvement with Lutheran Campus Ministries. Pastor will be leading a noon Bible Study starting January 9, 2012. Pastor reported that he and Pastor Taylor-Schaus will be hosting an open house Friday, January 6, 2012, at the parsonage.

Rebecca moved to accept all Team reports and the Pastor's report. Norm seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Pastor Schaus was then excused from the meeting.

**Other Business**

Discussion was held regarding a recommendation from the Executive Committee to suspend rental payments received from Pastor Schaus until his home is sold. It was also recommended that a time limit be put on the suspension of the rental payments. Anne moved that the rental payments be suspended effective November 2011 through October 2012 with the caveat that the issue be reviewed in one year. Charlotte seconded the motion and the motion passed. Rebecca

abstained from voting.

Discussion was held regarding a budget for Crossways Campus Ministry for 2012. Tina moved that we give an estimated statement of commitment for \$1,500 to Crossways Ministry. The recommendation was based on review of previous year's actual giving. Rebecca seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Russ reported that he met with the Nominating Committee and the Nominating Committee is active.

Carie reported that the budget for 2012 is not final, but at this point, it looks like the budget will be around 3.5% higher from 2011.

The meal for the annual meeting was discussed. It was decided to order chicken from Piggly Wiggly and that the Council members will supply the desserts. Rebecca will put out a sign-up sheet so we know how many people will be attending.

Rebecca and Carie were then excused from the meeting.

The salary recommendations from the Executive Committee were reviewed.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Norm moved to adjourn the meeting and Shirley seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted:  
Cynthia Wilson  
Church Council Secretary

## FROM THE SACKS

2011 was quite a year in Japan. On March 11 we were reminded of our humanity and mortality when the huge earthquake shook our very foundations, and then as we gazed in disbelief at the televised events unfolding north of us with unprecedented tsunami force. Through the months that have followed, we have been reminded again of why we respect our Japanese friends so much and feel honored to share and receive the Love of Christ in this country.



This photo was taken in August, when Bethany returned to do summer school teaching alongside her brother and sister at their alma mater, the American School in Japan. It was such fun to be together. **Jon** is still a kindergarten assistant at that school, and will be starting a master's course in January to certify him to teach secondary math in the future. **Bethany** returned to Minneapolis in March from her service in Palestine. She does waitressing to pay the rent and is highly involved in the Palestinian movement in the Twin Cities. She also did an internship through the Minnesota Council of Churches, helping refugees to get their feet on the ground.

**Emily** studied at Parson's The New School of Design in New York City, and then decided to continue her education in Japan. She is now attending Temple University, Japan. **Jim** continues his pastoral care efforts through the Personal Growth and Counseling Center and the Clinical Psychology Department of the Japan Lutheran College and Seminary. **Carol** is finishing her sixth year/third class of women who are training to use Pastoral Harp at the bedside.

One important family member is not included in the above family photo: Jon's wife Miho, who, in typical Japanese fashion returned to her parents' home for a month before and two months after their baby's birth.



Meet  
**Kaya**  
**Evelyn Sack**  
Born October 21,  
2011!



Needless to say, we are pretty thrilled! Wow, what a cutie. And how blessed we are to have her (and her parents) living only 15 minutes away from us!

In the cycle and miracle of both life and death, we yielded Carol's father, Carl Manfred, (93) into the hands of the Lord on December 11. Carol's mother Miriam (94) is doing remarkably well, having cared for Carl at home with help of Home Hospice, and Jim's mother Lorine (92) is still lovely, being cared for at Martin Luther Manor.

## FROM THE BISHOP



### “A Resolution Worth Keeping”

Every year we play around with the concept of making New Year’s Resolutions. This effort is sometimes serious, often humorous and rarely followed through to the end.

This year I’d like to invite you to make and keep one resolution with me. It will ...

- Feed your souls;
- Guide your lives;
- Strengthen your relationships;
- Broaden your perspectives;
- Give your lives meaning;
- Bring you closer to God.

What would this magic elixir be? Simple ... God’s Word!

The Psalmist proclaims:  
“Thy Word, oh God, is a

*lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.” (Psalm 119: 105)*

Nikolai Grundtveig adds:

*God’s Word is our great heritage,  
And shall be ours forever.  
To spread its light from age to age,  
Shall be our chief endeavor.  
Through life it guides our way,  
In death it is our stay.*

*Lord, grant while lime shall last.*

*Your Church may hold it fast.  
Throughout all generations.*

(Evangelical Lutheran Worship #509)

WISE MEN +  
+ STILL SEEK  
+ HIM



The United States is now the fourth largest mission field in the world! The time is right for us to share the story of Jesus Christ and his saving grace.

But in order for us to share it, we must experience it again through the pages of sacred Scripture.

Join with me in prioritizing God’s Word throughout the year ahead.

- Study it with others.
- Read it by yourself.
- Focus upon it through worship and prayer.

Why? Not because you have to. No, because it will bring you hope, strength and confidence to live your faith boldly each and every day.

Focusing on God’s Word is a resolution worth keeping!

“Everything else can wait, but the search for God cannot ...”

-George Harrison (1943-2001)

-Jim Justman

## WE'RE ALL STILL WELCOME

By Christine Iverson on January 20, 2012 4:45 AM (reprinted to elca.org)  
*Originally posted Jan. 18, 2012, at Halstad Parish. Republished with permission of the author.*

We've had a long break from hard winter this year. It has been fairly mild and lots of records have been set for record highs. But it is January and this is northwestern Minnesota and winter is here.

Yesterday morning it was below zero and windy. I knew without a thermometer that I was going to need to dress really warm.

First of all, when I came into the living room, the two oldest (and biggest) cats were curled up together in my husband's chair on top of the fleece throw.

Then when my husband left to go to work, he came back into the house. When I asked what he'd forgotten, he answered, "No, I need my real winter jacket today." He hadn't even gotten it out of the closet yet this year. He doesn't get cold often. When he puts on extra winter layers, the weather service is probably putting out advisories about the cold.

When I get cold in the car, he could well be driving in his (short) shirtsleeves!

Needless to say, one of the areas we have had to learn to compromise and work with each other is in regulating the thermostat in the car and at home. I wear more layers and keep a blanket handy and he wears short sleeves often even in the winter. He puts up with my cold feet at night and I enjoy coming to bed and getting my feet warm.

### The lesson

There is a lesson in this for how we get along together in Christian community.

We all have different set points when things become uncomfortable. Sometimes it is change itself that makes us uncomfortable. Like my husband and I in the car, it is often when we are sitting together in worship that we find ourselves in disagreement.

Where some people find comfort in familiar words and patterns, other people find boredom and wonder if those same words and patterns have anything to do with what is going on in their world today.

It is human nature I think to see such preferences as disagreements that put people on one "side" or another.

Our language becomes divisive: for or against, one or the other, yes or no.

We can become so side-tracked by this that we cannot see the value and treasures in variety or the wider welcome it gives to more people. Culture has made compromise into a negative value, equating it with failure and equating moderation with being mediocre.

### Living in harmony

Faith calls us to live in harmony with one another. The mark of our faith is not in being right but in looking out for the faith of others and in welcoming those who are new to the gospel.

Paul writes in Romans; "Let us then pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding" (Romans 14:19). Our focus is not to be on ourselves but on others, and we are to act not out of judgment but out of love.

The four Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) and the book of Acts give a wonderful picture of Jesus' disciples and the early church full of flaws, chaos, differences and the power of Jesus' love and grace.

Jesus collects a group of people from all corners of his world, people who wouldn't have found themselves together by their own choosing and from them begins this thing called the church, the body of Christ, this community.

You and I have also been called into this community, to put ourselves aside and to love and serve others; in this God is glorified. Read Romans 15:1-7.

# February 2012

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 8:30 am Mission Sewing—B 3 pm FROGs—B 4:15 pm Confirmation 7 pm FOCUS—YR	2 3 pm Karate—B 5:30 pm Yoga Class—B	3 No Events Scheduled	4 4:30 pm Worship (HC)
5 8 am Worship (HC) 9:15 am Choir 9:15 am Sunday School & Adult Class 10:30 am Worship (HC)	6 8 am TOPS—B 10 am Staff Mtg—L Noon Lunch & Learn—L 4:30 pm Batterer's Grp—HR 5:15 pm TOPS—HR 6:15 pm Busy Bees 4-H—B 6:30 pm Prop & Maint.—L 5:15 pm TOPS—HR 7 pm Adult Bible Study—L 7 pm Dartball @ Immanuel	7 3 pm Karate—B 6:45 pm TEAM—B 7:30 pm Discipleship Grp—L	8 7 am LMM @ Skippers 3 pm FROGs—B 4:15 pm Confirmation 7 pm FOCUS—YR	9 9 am Ruth Circle 3 pm Karate—B 5:30 pm Yoga Class—B 7 pm Miriam Circle	10 No Events Scheduled	11 4:30 pm Worship (HC)
12 8 am Worship (HC) 9:15 am Choir 9:15 am Sunday School & Adult Class 10:30 am Worship (HC) 1 pm Dartball Tournament—B	13 8 am TOPS—B 9 am Esther Circle—L 9 am Sarah Circle 10 am Staff Mtg—L Noon Lunch & Learn—L 4:30 pm Batterer's Grp—HR 5 pm Council—CR 5:15 pm TOPS—HR 7 pm Adult Bible Study—L 7 pm Dartball—B	14 1 pm M&M Group 3 pm Karate—B 6 pm Christian Education—L 6:45 pm TEAM—B 7:30 pm Discipleship Grp—L	15 Noon-Net Work Deadline 3 pm FROGs—B 4:15 pm Confirmation 7 pm FOCUS—YR	16 3 pm Karate—B 5 pm Youth & Family—L 5:30 pm Yoga Class—B	17 5 pm Wedding Rehearsal	18 10 am Wedding 4:30 pm Worship (HC)
19 8 am Worship (HC) 9:15 am Choir 9:15 am Sunday School & Adult Class 10:30 am Worship (HC)	20 8 am TOPS—B 10 am Staff Mtg—L Noon Lunch & Learn—L 2 pm Worship & Music—L 4:30 pm Batterer's Grp—HR 5:15 pm TOPS—HR 6:30 pm Outreach—YR 7 pm Adult Bible Study—L 7 pm Dartball—B	21 3 pm Karate—B 6:45 pm TEAM—B 7:30 pm Discipleship Grp—L	22 "ASH WEDNESDAY" 7 am LMM @ Skippers 11 am Worship (HC) 3 pm FROGs—B 4:15 pm Confirmation 5 pm Lenten Fish Fry 6:30 pm Worship (HC) 7 pm FOCUS—YR	23 3 pm Karate—B 5:30 pm Yoga Class—B	24 No Events Scheduled	25 4:30 pm Worship (HC)
26 8 am Worship (HC) 9:15 am Choir 9:15 am Sunday School & Adult Class 10:30 am Worship (HC)	27 8 am TOPS—B 10 am Staff Mtg—L Noon Lunch & Learn—L 4:30 pm Batterer's Grp—HR 5:15 pm TOPS—HR 6 pm Stewardship—L 7 pm Adult Bible Study—L	28 2 pm Jenny Towers Service 3 pm Karate—B 6:45 pm TEAM—B 7:30 pm Discipleship Grp—L	29 11 am Worship 3 pm FROGs—B 4:15 pm Confirmation 5 pm Lenten Fish Fry 6:30 pm Worship 7 pm FOCUS—YR			

**Our Saviour's Lutheran Church**

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**February 2012**

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