

LOVE LIFE; LIVE LENT

A few years ago, I found myself in a heated discussion with a Christian who was a member of a nondenominational church that doesn't "do Lent." His major criticism of Lenten observance was that spending six weeks contemplating death was morose. Though I tried, I could not convince him that, though we remember Jesus' journey to the cross during Lent, the Lenten season was designed to help us live more abundantly and gratefully. Christ died so that we might live.

I thought of that discussion when I read an article about a Church of England's program entitled "Love Life; Live Lent." Instead of giving up chocolate or trying to lose weight by not eating desserts, Lent is marked by undertaking simple acts of generosity each day. The campaign was featured in an article in *The Independent*, a UK newspaper, in February 2007:

"In recent years, in different corners of the globe, several movements have sprung up inviting followers to combat the selfishness of modern life by doing nice things to random strangers. If you put your mind to it, carrying out acts of kindness can start as soon as you wake up. You can be kind to people in different parts of the country, or on the other side of the world, or even be kind to the planet itself, without leaving your home."

I am writing this article in early January. My tree is undecorated but still needs to be returned to its box. I have not yet finalized our 2012 Lenten theme. However, I am intrigued by the possibility of challenging people to use this year's Lenten season as an opportunity to begin new habits of kindness and generosity. I've heard far too much grumbling, gossiping and selfishness in the world around me. I'm ready to be part of a positive movement, rooted in the gift of Jesus Christ, where people are willing to change their own lives, their own bad habits and claim new habits of caring, assuming the best, working toward peace and cooperation and living generously.

How about you?

What do you think?

Let me know.

LOVE LIFE; LIVE LENT

See you in church,

Pastor Cath Mode

**We're On
Facebook!**

Check out Our Savior's Facebook page at **Our Savior's Lutheran—Neenah, WI.**

We will post regular updates, pictures, events, and other fun happenings at Our Savior's.

You can also access the Facebook page through our homepage on our website at www.our-saviors.org.

FEBRUARY YOUTH EVENT

Calling all youth (grades 6 & up)...join us for our next youth event.

When: Wednesday, February 1

Time: 3:45 pm (come right after school) until 5:30 pm. Dinner is served at 5:00 pm.

Cost: \$3.00 donation per person.

Bring your friends!

Parents, we must have a completed permission slip on file for ALL youth attending.

YOUTH WORSHIP WEEKEND

The youth are leading all three worship services on February 4 & 5 and the youth band will perform.

We need you to sign up to be a reader, greeter, usher; help with special music, a skit, or the children's sermon.

JR. HIGH YOUTH GATHERING

The Jr. High Youth Gathering will take place in Fond du Lac on February 18 & 19.

For all of you that signed up to attend, you're going to have a BLAST! Watch your mail for final details or contact Marcie at mkimmes@our-saviors.org.

YOUTH MISSION TRIP

You've asked for it...we're doing it...another youth mission trip this summer!

We are going to Joplin, MO, from June 24-29. This year we're trying something new – an adult and youth trip to the same location. This will give our older youth an opportunity to do "building type" work and for some adults to work on "community service type" projects.

Interested in taking a road trip? Contact Marcie at mkimmes@our-saviors.org or 725-3956.

CONFIRMATION NEWS

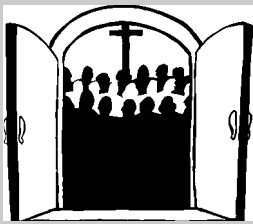
Confirmation camp is June 10–15. All 7th & 8th grade students will receive a registration packet by February 22. Completed registration forms need to be turned in to the church office by March 5. Please contact Marcie Kimmes if you have questions.

CONFIRMATION CLASSES DURING LENT

There are no confirmation classes during Lent; *HOWEVER*, confirmation students are expected to attend all mid week Lenten services. Attendance will be taken and points given.

LOOKING AHEAD...

Mark your calendar for our annual LOCK-IN! It's sure to be a great time - even if you don't know where the "secret stop" will be. This is open to all youth in Grades 6 & up. Bring your friends to this crazy, good time!



Annual Meeting & Meal

Thursday, February 2
Dinner at 5:30 pm with meeting following.

YOUTH MISSION TRIP BAKE SALE

The youth mission trip group is having a bake sale February 4 & 5.

Baked goods will be available after both the Saturday and Sunday worship services.

What a sweet way to support our youth!

This Month's Storyline
Abraham & Sarah

In this story we learn what God meant when he told Abram, "Your family will include as many people as there are stars in the sky."

Rotations Cast

- Art:** Kris Martin
- Video:** Karen Whitmer
- Storytelling:** Annamarie Zimmerman
- Science:** Karen Malchow
- Cooking:** Stephanie Emenecker
- Photographer: Kelly Arens Music: Jen Paulson

Thank you to all who have volunteered to change a child's life in just one hour! Ardy Kreuter, Kris Martin, John , Amy & Caitlyn Kampe, Connie Freeders, Kelly Keach, Kristi Armstrong, Michelle Granato, Kelly Arens, Cary Myska, Kerin Harrington, and Christine Rondeau. Thank you also to those who have been shepherding the children: Suzanne Hietala, Melissa Harrington, Debi Baldauf, Sarah Kimmes, Rebecca Danke, Kelly Shannon, and Sara Krook.

You have touched the lives of our children!

Next Storyline: Palm Sunday to Easter

Don't miss out on all the fun! Join us on Sundays at 9:15 am in the Sanctuary!

Youth & Sunday School Calendar

<p>Feb. 1 3:45 pm Youth Event 5:30 pm Grades 7 & 8 Confirmation Class 7:45 pm Youth Band Practice</p> <p>Feb. 4 5:00 pm Youth Led Worship 5:00 pm Youth Bake Sale</p> <p>Feb. 5 8:00 am Youth Led Worship 9:15 am Sunday School 9:15 am Grade 6 Confirmation Class 9:15 am Youth Group (Grades 7 & Up) 9:15 am Youth Bake Sale 10:30 am Youth Worship & SS. Kids Sing</p>	<p>Feb. 8 5:30 pm Grades 7 & 8 Confirmation Class 7:45 pm Youth Band Practice</p> <p>Feb. 12 9:15 am Sunday School 9:15 am Grade 6 Confirmation Class 9:15 am Grade 4 Class—What Was When? 9:15 am Youth Group (Grades 7 & Up) 10:30 am Grade 4 Honored</p> <p>Feb. 15 5:30 pm Grades 7 & 8 Confirmation Class 7:45 pm Youth Band Practice</p> <p>Feb. 18 Junior High Youth Gathering</p>	<p>Feb. 19 9:15 am Sunday School 9:15 am Grade 6 Confirmation Class 9:15 am Youth Group (Grades 7 & Up)</p> <p>Feb. 22 6:30 pm Ash Wednesday Worship</p> <p>Feb. 26 9:15 am Sunday School 9:15 am Grade 6 Confirmation Class 9:15 am Youth Group (Grades 7 & Up)</p> <p>Feb. 29 5:30 pm Soup Supper 6:30 pm Lent Worship</p>
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LOVE LIFE LIVE LENT



TRANSFORM YOUR WORLD

2012 Lenten Series

All midweek worship services will be held at 10:00 am and 6:30 pm, except where noted.
 Soup Suppers start on Wednesday, February 29 from 5:30—6:15 pm

Lent is the season of fasting, service, devotion and worship for six weeks prior to Easter. Many think of it as participating in Jesus' journey to the cross. In the early Christian church and in many congregations, it is a time to prepare new Christians for baptism or membership in a congregation. For all of us, it can be a time to deepen our faith.

This year's theme **LOVE LIFE LIVE LENT**, is more than a midweek worship program. Our goal is to involve our youth, our Sunday School, and all other areas of our church community life.

In addition to our traditional soup suppers and midweek worship, this year's program will provide materials that will help people of all ages, 3-93 years old, to undertake simple acts of generosity each day. The actions are small and fun to do but make a real difference in homes, families and communities.

Full Lenten Schedule

Wed. 2/22

Ash Wednesday Worship:
Love Life ☺ Live Lent; our journey begins. Holy Communion and Imposition of Ashes.

Wed. 2/29

Soup and Worship:
Home and Family; Luke 15:11-32
"There was a man who had two sons..."

Wed. 3/7

Soup and Worship:
Neighborhood and Community;
 Luke 10:25-37 *"Who is my Neighbor?"*

Wed. 3/14

Soup and Worship:
Work or School; Luke 6:37-42
"Forgive and you will be forgiven."

Wed. 3/21

Soup and Worship:
Local and Global; Exodus 3:1-12
"Let my people go."

Wed. 3/28

Soup and Worship:
Journey to the Cross;
 Luke 18:31-34 *"We are going up to Jerusalem."*

Sat. & Sun. 3/31 & 4/1

Palm/Passion Sunday Worship:
 Sat. 5:00 pm, Sun. 8 & 10:30 am.
 Palm Procession and Cantata featuring all music groups.
Donkey Walk Sunday at 9:15 am.
Palm Sunday Breakfast

Thurs. 4/5

Maundy Thursday Worship: Holy Communion, Anointing with oil for healing and wholeness, and Stripping of the Altar.

Fri. 4/6

Good Friday Worship
Candlelight Cross.
 Our Savior's at 6:30 pm only
 Ecumenical Service to be announced.

Sat. 4/7

Easter Vigil 5:00 pm.
 Baptismal celebration, new members received.

Sun. 4/8

Easter Sunday Festival Worship
 Services 7:00, 9:00, and 10:30 am
Love Life☺Live Easter





**Sinners
To
Dinner**
Saturday,
Feb. 11
at The
Ground Round

Celebrating 4 Years!

Our first evening out was in February 2008. We have been to The Ground Round, Gulliver's, Sky Club East, Naut's Landing, Four Seasons, Zacatecas, Michael's in Menasha, HuHot's, OSLC caroling and pizza, El Azteca's, Famous Dave's, Outback, The Legacy, Appleton Grill, 5 Generations, Charcoal Grill, Cranky Pat's, Solea's, BenVenutos, Olive Garden, Pullmans, Machine Shed, O'Charley's and a potluck at Our Savior's. We've eaten 378 total meals. Our smallest group was 2. Our largest group was 16. We have eaten a lot of good meals but, more importantly, made great friends.

We will be going to The Ground Round in Neenah after the 5:00 pm worship on Sat., Feb. 11. We hope you can come!

Dinner is "Dutch Treat." Please contact Roberta Golden at 722-5476 or roberta_golden@hotmail.com by Friday evening, Feb. 10, so we can make reservations.



Men's Breakfasts
February
11 & 25
8:00 am

Perkins in Neenah
All men are welcome!

Love Life ☺ Live Lent
Bible Study

Join us for a five week Adult Lenten Bible Study scheduled after worship in the library.
February 29—March 28, 7:15-8:30 pm.
Pastor Mode will discuss the biblical background and related current issues of each week's Lenten theme.

TRANSFORM YOUR WORLD

**Taize
Service
Change**

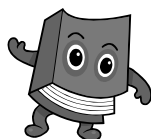
The "From Darkness to Light" Taize Service has been changed to Wednesday, February 1, at 6:30 pm.

We invite you to come to a quiet, simple, half-hour service with a taste of the mystery and beauty of God.

This Taize service will use sight, sound, and powerful simple music to create a time away from hectic schedules and harried lives.

Invite your friends.
This is a family friendly service.

**Sponsored by the
Worship Ministry Team**



**Mini Class for
Grade 4**

What Was When? - This class looks at the Bible and the church's history. Parents and students are invited to attend on Sunday, Feb. 12, at 9:15 am.

Students will be honored at the 10:30 am service.



**Winter is Here.
Summer Camp is
Near!**

Grab a brochure or go online to learn more about summer camping programs available for ALL ages. Hurry! Early Registration deadline for summer camps is March 15.

Visit
www.CrosswaysCamps.org or call 920-882-0023 for more information.

Upcoming Retreats!

Quilting Retreat—Feb. 3-5
Pine Lake

Scrapbooking Retreat—
Feb. 3-5 Imago Dei

Crafting Retreat—Feb. 24-26
Pine Lake

Men's Retreat—Mar. 2-4
Imago Dei



Pizza Time!!

10th Annual Pizza Build

Saturday, February 4

(Just in time for the Super Bowl on Feb. 5!)

Your pizza will be made by hand on Saturday morning using the freshest ingredients from Lone Elm Dairy. That means when you pick them up Saturday they are set to go in the oven or ready to stick in the fridge to eat while you watch the big game the next day! You can stick them in your freezer, so stock up for when the next pizza craving hits.

Tell all your friends and family!

Proceeds from the sale go toward all of the Our Savior's mission trips. You get a yummy pizza and you're helping with this important ministry at the same time. How cool is that!

Order envelopes and posters are in the Gathering Area.

Please take some order forms to your friends and co-workers, too.

Didn't get your order placed in time? There will be limited quantities of pizzas for sale during worship services on Feb. 4 & 5.

Sacristy Remodel

Thank you to the following people for giving us their time and talent during the remodeling of the Sacristy/Altar Guild room. Chris Swender, Dick Jacobson, Steve Kuehl, Adam Shea, Ruth Melzer, and Cindy Coy.

The project included new cupboards for storage, new countertops, new sink and faucets, and new flooring.

All of this was accomplished with the help of volunteers. The money for the project was donated. A new TV and stand were also purchased for the

lounge by a member.

The last part of this project is to restroom in the lounge; however, we are out of funds. The wallpaper is falling off the walls, the floor needs to be redone, and it needs a new commercial grade toilet and handicap grab bar.

If you can find it in your heart to donate to this project, it would be greatly appreciated. We are hoping to complete the project by spring.

Thank You,
Cindy Coy (Altar Guild Chair)



Fair Trade Global Coffee!

There is a display in the Gathering Area containing bags of Fair Trade Global Coffee.

The cost is \$7 per bag and you can choose from several different flavors. We recently received a new shipment, so all flavors are restocked.

When you buy Fair Trade coffee, you not only get an excellent cup of coffee, you also help build a more just world for small farmers in developing countries. Through Fair Trade, farmers earn a fair price for their products and by pooling their resources, they are able to invest in education, health care, and agricultural improvements in their communities.

If you would like to request a special flavor, see a catalog of other items available, or would like to order large coffee quantities, please contact Alley at 725-3956.



Worship

Feb.22 at

10:00 am &
6:30 pm



A WEEKEND TO CELEBRATE LOVE

Saturday, February 11, at 5:00 pm
Sunday, February 12, at 8:00 & 10:30 am

Red hearts, pink greeting cards, candy wrappers with sentimental messages ...unavoidable this time of year, right? Then the candy gets eaten, the cards are recycled, and the commercials about sparkling diamonds finally stop. Does love stick around past Valentine's Day? What's God's message to us about love, no matter what we're facing in life?

We invite you to join us in worship on Valentine's weekend as we celebrate God's love for all of His children. This year's annual Love Service will take an honest look at God's unfailing presence and comfort for us in this anxious and uncertain world. Come and hear His words of hope and encouragement.

These services, planned by the OSLC Music Ministry Team, will also highlight our congregation's donations to Lutheran World Relief. We will take a special "noisy offering," and your gifts will be used to purchase items for school kits, personal care kits, and baby care kits. If you prefer to shop for specific gifts, shopping lists for LWR are located in a wall rack outside of Alley Shepeck's office located across from the church library in the office wing.

Please help us spread God's love to our community by inviting friends and family to join us!

Youth Mission Trip Sponsors Needed

Due to family and/or financial situations, a few students who want to go on our summer mission trip(s) are unable to pay their portion of the trip. Our goal is to give *all* students the opportunity to go regardless of their financial situation. Through your generosity, you can give someone the opportunity to grow and serve through mission work!

Are you able to help send one of our students on a youth mission trip this summer? Please contact Pastor Mode or our Youth Coordinator, Marcie Kimmes, at the church office.

Varsity, Retirees, & Friends

We have a lunch date picked!

Join us for fellowship and food (at your own cost) at the Four Seasons Restaurant on Commercial Street, Tuesday, February 21, at 11:30 am.



Think Spring!

Tulip Mania...

Milwaukee Domes...

Are you retired or semi-retired? Are you looking for something fun to do?

Why don't you join us on a coach bus trip to the Mitchell Domes in Milwaukee for "Tulip Mania" on Tuesday, April 17.

We will leave the church parking lot at 8:00 am and return by 4:30 pm.

The trip cost of \$24 includes the bus and admission to the Domes.

Lunch will be on your own at one of the many restaurants in Milwaukee.

Watch for details in the church bulletin.

Memorials & Honorariums



None for December 2011.

Financial Snapshot

GENERAL OPERATING FUND	YTD 2010 through Dec.	YTD 2011 through Dec.
Income	\$382,191.91	\$385,763.06
Expenses	\$390,814.20	\$374,279.41
Over / (Short):	(\$8,622.29)	\$11,483.65

ATTENDANCE

December	2010	2011
Week 1	316	289
Week 2	158	352
Week 3	449	385
Christmas	828	802+
Week 4	96*	na
Weekly Avg.	462	457

+ Christmas Eve/Day * Sunday Only

Reminder:

Building Access Code changed on January 2.

If you need access to the building after office hours, please call the church office at 725-3956.



It's Cold & Flu Season Again!

At Our Savior's we care about you and your health. Here are some tips.

It's okay to not shake hands while passing the peace. Bumping elbows, flashing a "V" peace sign, or the "how ya doin" head bob are all acceptable. Taking Communion in one kind (bread alone) is okay.

Our communion wine and bread is handled with the utmost care to keep it sanitary, and all assistants sanitize their hands before handling them. While we do our best to keep sanitizers available throughout the church, it may be a good practice to bring you own small bottle in your purse or pocket.

If you are feeling ill, please do not come to worship or volunteer activity. We will miss you dearly and pray for you, but by staying home you are preventing the germs from spreading to others and helping yourself get better and back to church quicker.



Soup Suppers

Begin Wed. Feb. 29

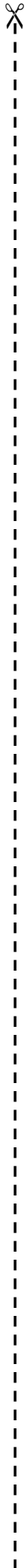
5:30 pm

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12-30-2011

NORMALLY I WOULD APPLAUD YOUR LAZINESS, BUT I REALLY NEED YOU TO PUT TOGETHER SOME NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS TO BREAK BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE



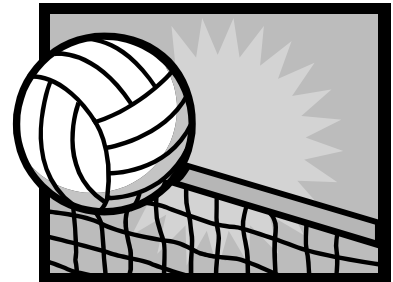
League / Open Gym Survey

We are looking into ways to increase the use of our gym and are asking for your help in suggestions on what activities or leagues to consider. If you are interested in helping plan any leagues or activities, please contact Alley Shepeck at 725-3956.

Completed surveys can be dropped off in the box in the Gathering Area.

Please place a check next to the activity you would be interested in if we offered it at Our Savior's.

- Adult Volleyball League
- Adult Volleyball Open Gym
- Youth Volleyball League
- Youth Volleyball Open Gym



- Adult Basketball League
- Adult Basketball Open Gym
- Youth Basketball League
- Youth Basketball Open Gym



- Dodgeball Games
- Bean Bag Toss League
- Badminton League
- Shuffleboard League
- Dartball League



Exercise Classes What kind? (yoga, cardio, martial arts, etc.)

- I'd be interested in being a referee for Volleyball.
- I'd be interested in being a referee for Basketball.
- I'd be interested in helping coordinate a team for _____ league.
- I'd be interested in helping at the concession stand during special events.

Name _____