

A Moving Faith Story

Jesus: *"I tell you the truth, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you."* Matthew 17:20-21.

I didn't used to give much thought about how expressing my faith, love and trust in God might be important — or even vital — to anyone. It was ingrained in me to have my children go to church and learn about God. Taking it beyond my own home/family wasn't given much consideration.

As I have grown in my personal relationship with my Father, I have found that there is an urging within me to tell others about God's Hope, Love and Salvation. I no longer wonder if it is 'worth it' or if it does any good for that person. It is God's seed that is planted. He doesn't stay small but rather is rooted within to grow and blossom with each word of encouragement.

To me that is what the mustard seed is... those words of encouragement I can tell anyone every day of my life. I can tell others of my faith stated as a fact: God loves you... you can trust in Him. He does not fail. God is in control and wants you to thrive and prosper. You are a worthy person, a child of our Father.

Today I am persistent in my passing on the seed and letting God take it from there. Today I understand my role in this life is to encourage those I meet and know with the Love and Hope that is eternal with our Lord. **Plant a seed today. Jesus tells us in his parable how powerful that tiny seed can be.**

Commitment Visits Committee

As Christians, we have much to celebrate, and a commission to reach out to a hurting world with the Gospel. If we truly believe in Jesus Christ as our personal Savior, we cannot help but joyfully live and tell that gospel message with all the resources God has given us. We invite you to celebrate Christ's great gift for us by making a special **three-year commitment** above and beyond your regular weekly giving. By this time you should have received a commitment card for making a pledge toward Missions, Ministry, Facilities, and Staffing.

To determine your special offering please:

1. STUDY — In His Word, God gives guidelines on giving. Key scriptures are: Hebrews 13:15-16, Hebrews 6:10, Luke 6:38, Malachi 3:10. (See more in the Campaign Booklet you received.)
2. PRAY — Ask God's will.

For those who cannot make it to one of the Commitment Sundays, May 1 or May 8, our Commitment Visitors with the Directors, Jon Kovach and James Stewart, will contact you to pick up your confidential Commitment Card. Please place it in the envelope.

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Coming Up

PRAYER VIGIL:
April 29, 2011 from
3:00 pm to 9:00 pm

COMMITMENT SUNDAYS:
May 1 and May 8 at 10:30 am

CELEBRATION SUNDAY:

May 22, 2011 at 10:30 am
Celebration Sunday will be the culmination of our Spiritual Growth/Capital Stewardship Campaign of Connect to Christ, experience MORE. On this Sunday, we will unveil the total financial commitments to which all of us have so prayerfully committed ourselves. We believe God is doing a great work among us. We want to Celebrate at this worship service His gracious love to us. Don't miss this exciting day of Celebration!



OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

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ISSUE 4 – APRIL 2011

Our Spiritual Journey Continues ...including Bible Studies

The All Church Bible studies are memories to the many that gathered on Sunday evenings in February and March to study God's word.

Our guest speakers, Pastors Karl Koch and Craig Schultz, led us in searching the scriptures concerning God's gifts to us and our response to those gifts. The Biblical references to this aspect of our Christian walk are numerous, but the bottom line is simple and straight forward: God gives to us out of love and we please Him when we love Him back.

We demonstrate our love and glorify His name when we serve Him with the time He gives us, with the talents He gives us, and with the treasure He provides. Perhaps this is a truth you live by, or maybe you heard it for the first time at the Bible Studies, or maybe you couldn't attend and want to know more. Printouts of Biblical reference are available at church.

There were many in favor of continuing these Sunday evening Bible studies.

Video News

The video was well received by those who have been able to view it. It's such a short time to review 85 years in a congregation's life. We tried to highlight most of the present programs, activities and people of the congregation. The photographs show the construction of our present facility and the walk from the old church building. The snapshots of various groups from the beginning to the present time brought back many memories. We pray that we will be able to develop more and better disciples by expanding our outreach to the community.

Please contact the church, 810-789-1361, if you would like to borrow a copy of the video shown at the All Church Fellowship Dinner.

From the Pastor

“Greater things have yet to come. And greater things are still to be done in this city.”



So sings Chris Tomlin. His music video “God of This City” was just one of the highlights of our All Church Fellowship event held Sunday, April 10 at The Village hall.

We were well-fed by caterer Sylvestine Houston, with help from our own dessert-maker, Beverly McIntosh. We saw some inspiring praise dancing by young believers of New Jerusalem Dance Ensemble. We heard some pretty good jokes from Ken Deming. And we were moved and assured by faith stories from Alton Thorn, Jr., Jon Kovach, Debbi Madsen, and Bobby Toliver. Praise be to our great God and Savior!

The song **“We Have Seen God’s Glory”** provided powerful accompaniment for the photos of Our Savior’s history and ministry. That message, along with the *Connect to Christ, Experience MORE* campaign booklet, illustrates many of the “great things God has done” at Our Savior Lutheran over the past 85 years.

“Greater things have yet to come. And greater things are still to be done here.”

During the past several months we have been **imagining** and planning for the future of Our Savior Lutheran. And we have been **measuring** the interests and desires that God has placed on the hearts of His people. Our path to the future is being:

Guided by God’s Word
Paved in Prayer and
Secured by the faithful service and
sacrifice of God’s people.

Campaign leaders have already committed \$100,000 “over and above” their weekly tithes during the next three years. We are well on our way to realizing an elevator (or barrier-free access) and other building upgrades which will support additional ministries for seniors, youth, children, and families, along with future staff.

Now is the time for each member and friend of Our Savior to add your *prayerful, faith-filled, sacrificial* commitment to the *Connect to Christ: Experience MORE* campaign. Commitments will be gathered on Sundays, May 1 and May 8. For those local **members of Our Savior** unable to turn in commitments on those days, Commitment Visitors will

schedule a time for pick-up between May 9 and May 21. The results of this special offering will be unveiled on Celebration Sunday, May 22. Will we reach our Celebration Goal of \$150,000? Our Victory Goal of \$250,000? Or our Miracle Goal of \$350,000? Whatever the result:

“Greater things have yet to come. And greater things are still to be done!”

Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably MORE than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen. **Ephesians 3:20-21**

Yours in Christ, Our Savior,

Pastor Randy Schultz

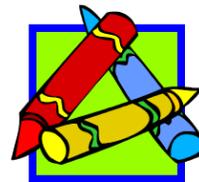
...and the Survey Says

Missions · Ministry · Facilities · Staffing

Although we haven’t finished tallying the surveys received thus far, we will soon have those results. We would also like to invite those of you who haven’t yet filled out your survey to help us get a more complete view of the desires of Our Savior’s congregation.

...and the Kid’s Party

There were 20 children at the party while their parents or caregivers were enjoying the evening at the All Church Fellowship Dinner just up the street. They watched movies, played games, and had a “kid-style” meal. Thanks to coordinators, Kim Rodgers and Carrie Kovach for getting helpers to be sure the children were well cared for.



...and the Promotions People

From this newsletter you are reading, to the past newsletters, the Campaign Booklet, the Prayer Vigil booklet, Prayer Request sheets and cards, Commitment cards, the letters that accompanied them, Bible Study invitations, Kid’s Party invitations and poster flyer, the envelopes that everything came in, the labels to mail items, plus the hours spent printing, folding, and putting on the labels ... God has blessed us with all the talents and time needed. Thanks to the many that helped with these efforts!

Volunteers at Our Savior are the reason so many of our ministry programs work! People volunteer! How awesome is that?!

...and the Home Visits

The **Connect to Christ; experience MORE** campaign reaches its peak on Celebration Sunday, May 22. Our goal is to have all home visits completed by that date. The good news is that we have reached out, visited or attempted to contact over 100 families in our congregation and community thus far. Many thanks and blessings to everyone who has helped us reach out to so many people in such a relatively short amount of time. Our challenge is to contact the remaining families we haven’t reached yet and visit those who wish to see us by Celebration Sunday.

In reflecting back on the home visits, we have spoken to many people who have really enjoyed the home visit experience. Those who did the visits said they enjoyed meeting with and talking to the families of Our Savior Lutheran. The surveys were, as a whole, very positive. We found that people consider Our Savior a very caring church. We were able to get many suggestions and feedback as to how our congregation sees us. This will certainly help as we seek to discern the Lord’s will in the direction Our Savior will take in the future.

As we close the home visits portion of the campaign, we would encourage all of you to keep reaching out — not only to those outside Our Savior, but those within our congregation as well. Say hello to someone you don’t know well. After all, we can, and must all take personal responsibility for making Our Savior a growing, caring, loving place to worship our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

May God Bless our Home Visits Directors, Minnie Rembert and Cliff Tapo.

...and Prayer Vigils

Jesus said: **“Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.”** Mark 11:24

Our first ever Prayer Vigil was a great success!! There were about 48 participants during the 24-hour vigil and over 65 people who submitted prayer requests. The feedback from those who participated felt it was an amazingly powerful experience. All felt very blessed by God. Many suggested that we continue to have Prayer Vigils after the Connect to Christ, experience MORE campaign is finished.

If you would like to participate in the next Prayer Vigil, mark **Friday, April 29, 2011 starting at 3:00 pm and continuing until 9:00 pm** on your calendar. You can stop at church and pray any time during this six-hour period. The prayer sections include: •**ADORATION** and praise to God for who He is and what He does. •**CONFESSION** of your sins against God. •**THANKSGIVING** to God for blessings received. •**SUPPLICATIONS** or requests for His blessings and intervention upon your needs and the needs of others. To date there have been 216 requests for prayers to be prayed during our vigils. We encourage everyone to participate. You will be amazed at what it does ... for you and those for whom we pray.

Finally, we thank our Prayer Vigil director, Sadonna Myers, who graciously gave of her time and talents.

