

From Pastor Mark . . .

“Thankful”

“We thank God for you, brothers and sisters, and rightly so, because your faith is growing more and more, and the love every one of you has for each other is increasing. Therefore, among God’s churches we boast about your perseverance and faith in all the persecutions and trials you are enduring.” I Thessalonians 1:3-4

Often I receive letters, note and cards expressing thoughts, stories and images of faith. I am so thankful for all of you who share with me. A poem was recently shared with me and I felt compelled to share it with you. Thank you, Mary, for your words, insight and sharing what God has revealed!

**Our Saviour’s Lutheran
Church
of Stanwood**

**December 2011
January 2012
Newsletter**



“Nipped By the Frost”

*One year when we lived in Delaware,
We had an unusually beautiful fall.
The gorgeous, colorful leaves just took my breath away
As I backed out of my drive headed for work.
As I proceeded down the road, I was very much aware of the beautiful
Trees and even took a minute to tell the Lord,
“You did such a great job with the fall colors this year.”
I noticed that not all the leaves on all the trees were brilliant, however.
In areas where trees were grouped together in groves,
Only the trees on the outer edges of the groves were really bright.
The trees that were protected in the center were less colorful.
Quickly I realized that since the frost has something to do with the brilliance
Of the fall colors, it was the trees that were nipped hardest by the cold,
That were the most beautiful.
Then I saw that even the center leaves on individual trees were less
Colorful than those on the outer edges.
Again I realized that the outside leaves had endured more stress from the frost.
This illustration from the Fall season can be applied to our own lives.
So often the most beautiful people are the ones who
Have endured the most difficult circumstances in life.
They chose to be thankful even while they were having a hard time,
And they refused to be consumed by bitterness and unforgiveness
Some of us, unfortunately, don’t allow God to work in and through difficulties,
And so like the brown leaves in the center of the tree,
we just sort of wither and die.
Unlike the trees, God gives us a choice of attitude and response.
If we choose to look for God’s purpose and meaning
In the frost of stress, disappointment, and hardship,
The Lord will make us beautiful people.
Like the tree that stands tall pointing upward to Heaven
in spite of the frost,
we too can point others to Jesus
as they see Him at work in our own lives.
The choice is ours.*

***I thank God for all of you - the beautiful, wonderful, colorful, frosted people
with whom He has surrounded me. Let us continue to get nipped by the frost together!***

Love in Christ, Pastor Mark

OFFICIAL NOTICE

ANNUAL CONGREGATION MEETING

Sunday, January 22 ~ 9:45 a.m.

OSLC Fellowship Hall

Meeting Agenda will include: Approval of Minutes of last Congregational Meeting, Reports from Council and Committee Chairs, Delegates to the Josephine Corporation meeting in April, Elect Nominating Committee for 2013 Council positions, other business. Any other business to be discussed or voted on. **Items that require congregational action must be announced at least 10 days before the called meeting.**

President, Marv Hansen / Date

BOSCOVET PROJECT 2012
CLOTHING & SCHOOL SUPPLY DONATIONS

The Boscovet Project in Kisii, Kenya will once again be the destination for a CVM mission trip in January 2012. This year Ric Shallow and Dan Haskins are leading a team of 6 volunteers hoping to repeat last years very successful and much appreciated mission trip to work with the poverty stricken families of the Menyinkwa village near Kisii.

Last year Ric and Dan delivered over 100 pounds of clothing – much of it new – and over \$300 in donations for books and school supplies. This year the team will again be accepting donations of clothing and funds for the Boscovet Project and Christian preschool. **Please bring your gently used or new children's clothing to the church before January 5, 2012.**



We hope to be able to bring over 200 pounds of clothes this year.

New OSLC members joining the team this year are Tracy Lamb, Kim Johnson, Ben Ulrich, and Kelsey Kanehan. Please keep us all in your prayers while we prepare for this trip that we may continue to pursue what God has called us all to do – “go and serve”.

This year we hope to bring much more enthusiasm and hope to the members of the Boscovet Project through our fellowship, funding, and clothing donations. We will again be working with the goat and chicken projects, conducting training in bio-intensive sustainable organic agriculture methods, planting trees purchased with some of the funds raised at last spring's dinner/auction, helping with the preschool activities, and hosting a vaccination & deworming clinic for the animals in several of the surrounding villages in conjunction with local government veterinarians. If you have questions or feel you would like to contribute to this project please contact Dan or Ric. If you feel so led, contributions for the trip are greatly appreciated and may be placed in the offering plate with the designation Boscovet.

Christmas House Update

*The angel replied, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you,
and the power of the Most High will overshadow you.
So the baby to be born will be holy,
and he will be called the Son of God." - Luke 1:35*

There are no words that sufficiently describe how humbled I am by the presence of the Holy Spirit. Thanks to God the Father for the gifts and talents He has given to each one of the members of our Community who have contributing on this project. I am thankful for their generosity, love, kindness, caring, and compassion that I am witnessing at the Christmas House.

By the time that you read this, we will have lived the message of Jesus, "Loving Your Neighbor" with hundreds of families in our community through the giving of toys, clothes, toiletries, blankets, school supplies, jackets and shoes.



Contributions (to date) include:

- For allowing the Stanwood Camano Food Bank to use the space - Our Saviour's Lutheran Church – the entire congregation. Thanks for your support! A special thank you to Pastor Mark for taking the time to oversee this project and for recruiting dozens of members of the congregation for the work parties.
- For adopting the project and coordination the donations of all the materials and labor - Camano Island Builders Association. A special thank you to Jim Hall for coordinating all things!
- For interior Insulation - Arrow Insulation
- For all drywall (product and installation) - Artistic Drywall
- Blue Heron Building Construction – Mark Peterson
- Christopher Homes, Inc.
- For replacing all Plumbing - Delk Plumbing, John Delk
- Designs by Sebastian, Enduring Homes
- G.A. Powell Construction Inc – Gil Powell
- For donating her house to the Church - Inga M. Bangs
- For selling Inga Bangs home and purchasing the Huntington House – John Holmes
- James Hall and Associates, Inc. – Jim Hall, President of the Camano Builders Association
- Pacific Northwest Siding and Painting – Joe Peppan and Robert Schulchen
- Pacific Windows and Construction Services– Bob Kraski
- Pelletier + Schaar
- The Christoferson Family
- For paint, floor covering, and countertops - Mount Vernon Carpet One
- For replacing all Electrical - Swift Electric – Les Swift
- To be continued.....

Love in Christ, Tracy

Christmas House ~ December 12 - 16

Ways You Can Help:

Donate gifts or organize a Christmas House gift drive: we need **pajamas, clothes, underwear, socks, toys, school supplies, stocking stuffers, books, and gifts for children of all ages** can be dropped off at Church Office or in the Stanwood Camano Food Bank (SCFB) basket located in the Fellowship Hall. Please make sure you mention the items are for the Christmas House.

All donations are distributed to children who live in our community. If you don't have time to shop, please send your financial support. Just drop a check off (for the Christmas House) at the Stanwood Camano Food

Bank. With **\$6-\$10.00 we can get pajamas for one child** and with **\$10-\$15.00 we can get a package of socks AND underwear for one child.**

For additional information, contact Tracy Ulrich at tracyulrich@frontier.com or 629-8181.

New Members to OSLC ~ Welcomed in October

Ron Nelson
Irene Nelson
Stephanie Norris
Barb Sickler
Jim Sickler
Don Tangen

Brad McNett
Sandy McNett
Dan Tenbrink
Megan Tenbrink
Devon, Austin, Ali
Herman Van Lier

Sue Carlson
Joel Carlson
Jerry Crofoot
Maurice Erickson
Arlene McKellar
Anna Perrella

At our last Spot staff meeting, I asked the volunteers to share any ideas or suggestions they might have. Jim Sickler suggested that every time The Spot is open, we pause to honor God. I knew we had to do it!



**Tuesdays, Thursdays
& Fridays
2:30—5:00 p.m.
Saturday nights
7:30—10:00 p.m.**

At first, it was like herding cats trying to get the kids to stop what they were doing (shoveling chips and salsa in their mouth, playing a cutthroat game of pool, spinning in circles, etc). “Wait, what are we doing? Why?” When we are all gathered, one of the leaders shares why The Spot exists. We tell the kids we are followers of Jesus, that God loves them, and that they matter. We share that we are very thankful to God and to Our Savior’s Lutheran for a place where we can gather. Then we ask for prayer requests and we pray and say thanks to our Father.

In the beginning, no one had prayer requests. Now, we have several kids raise their hands each time. Also, nearly every kid immediately puts down what they’re doing and heads to the living room saying, “Time to pray?” It’s amazing!

Some kids leave when the time is getting near, but that is more the exception than the rule. Because we have made this a scheduled part of the day, kids are more comfortable asking questions about God and sharing hardships or good things from their lives.

Our goal is not to force kids to believe in God. They know they are not required to participate and they can leave whenever they like. The goal is to make sure the message they need to hear is heard, “There is a God. He hears your cries for help. He loves you so much he sent His son Jesus to die for you. The Spot exists because we know this love and want to share it with you!”

And so... we pause.

Be still and know that I am God. -Psalm 46:10

Director, The Spot
Briana@stanwoodYFC.com

*“For where two or three gather in my name,
there I am with them.” - Matthew 18:20*

When you worship at Our Saviour's

Did you know . . .

That Anita Hansen contacts all of the worship assistants for the contemporary worship service?

That Maurice Edlund and Bob Ulbricht volunteer to serve as head ushers (one or the other of them ushers every Sunday) for the traditional service?

That Julie and Ken Freeman set up and cleanup every Sunday for the informal coffee in the narthex after the traditional worship?

That members of the altar guild all volunteer to attend to the altar - to keep the candles burning, change parament colors for each season and special Sunday, and prepare, serve, and cleanup for every communion service?

That the director, accompanist, and members of the choir all rehearse twice a week to prepare for the Sunday anthems?

That Ben and Kelsey have a Jam Session most Mondays at 5 and Praise Team rehearsal at 6 and that all are welcome?

That the main coffee hour between services is prepared by volunteers each Sunday and that all are encouraged to bake cookies from time to time?

That everyone is encouraged to volunteer to be a part of the worship services on Sunday morning - reading, serving communion, ushering, greeting - no experience required?

Thank you to all who serve so willingly!! Please let them know you appreciate their service - and volunteer!!



Thank You . . . Just to say thanks to everyone who has helped with the new church directory. We are working to get the directory all done and hope to send it out to Lifetouch soon.



Baptism . . .

On Sunday, November 13, 2011, we celebrated the **baptism** of **Leif Hanson**. May the Lord bless Leif's new life.

"Pray for one another" James 5:16b

PLEASE
Pray
FOR . . .



- Anita Hansen, Stephanie & Rick, Bernice Hanson
- Carol Ronken, Justin Murrell's dad, Betty Wenzel
- Ryker (Paul & Judy's Anderson's nephew),
- Judy Anderson, Ina (Addie Rygmyr's great niece)
- Betty Wenzel, Bernice Hansen, Derek Anderson
- Mary Jane Lund, Jean Jespersen, Diana Mailloux
- Bob Ulbricht, Debbie (Sedy) Hehn, Bud Hutter
- Dave Austin, Erling Skrinde, Sheri Rupe, Bill Sandberg,
- Irene Amundson, Madison Kunzman, David & Kathryn Thoresen
- Mary Jane Lund, Jan Moglebust
- Paige Kramer, Gretchen Orsland, Rosalie Hargrave
- Ella Larson, Susan Wietzke Tupper
- George Peebles, Carlene Garrison
- Michelle Brekhus in the Dominican Republic
- Pastor Mark, Lauren, Our Saviour's Lutheran congregation
- Homeless, Armed Forces, Josephine and Warm Beach residents
- Government and community leaders