“Let’s Go”

Then the Lord answered me and said, “Record the vision and inscribe it on tablets that the one who reads it may run. For the vision is yet for the appointed time; it hastens toward the goal and it will not fail. Though it tarries, wait for it; for it will certainly come, it will not delay.” (Habakkuk 2:2-3)

Jeannie Miller-Clarkson sent out an article recently entitled, “Rights and Wrongs of Visualizing the Future.” She writes,

God ordered the prophet Habakkuk to communicate a vision and to do so clearly. A couple of things that stand out about this order that make it distinctive from an ordinary corporate strategy of writing a “vision statement”.

- First, this vision originated in God, not from Habakkuk’s own mind.
- Second, this vision stated divine intention, not human ones.
- Third, this vision could not fail to reach completion at the appointed time.

God’s directions to Habakkuk in delivering that particular vision focused on the essential element of, well, to put it quite simply, “easy readability”. The commentators tell us that the phrase “that the one who reads it may run” means something like this: “that the one who reads it may run his eye over it quickly.” In other words, make it plain, simple and visually appealing.

So as your mind naturally turns to next year’s planning, there exist some right and wrong ways to do that. The wrong ways involve depending on self rather than God, insufficient attention to prayer and discernment, as well as failing to communicate appropriately. The right ways involve the opposite: listening, discerning, and communicating plainly and clearly.

As I read Jeannie’s article – I thought about our congregation’s attempt to clearly state, in simple terms, a vision for Our Saviour’s. “E3” – 1. Encounter God. 2. Encourage Believers. 3. Extend God’s Kingdom. These three statements are staples in the Christian life – 1. Worship. 2. Discipleship. 3. Evangelism. How might these 3 phrases be ‘visually’ appealing and compelling?

As I read Jeanie’s article – I also remembered my drive home from California this past summer. During that drive, I found my mind darting back and forth in search of a motto that might inspire us as we move forward into the fall and beyond. Mottos tend to be short, direct, and concise, yet give direction. After many miles, and many combinations of words – I stumbled on, what for me, in the moment, was a rich discovery that created ripple effects in my reflection. Two ordinary words. 6 letters. Yet words spoken from Genesis to Revelation... “LET’S GO!”

To Abraham in Genesis 12:1, God says, “Go to the land I will show you...”

To the disciples in Matthew 28:19, Jesus says, “Go and make disciples of all nations...”

To the disciples in Acts 1:10, an Angel says, “Why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.”

As the year, 2018 approaches—Let’s Go...To God! Let’s Go...Together! Let’s Go...To All the Nations! “I rejoiced with those who said to me, “Let us go to the house of the Lord.” Psalm 122:1

The Lord says, “I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go...” Psalm 32:8

It’s time. Let’s Go!

In Christ, Pastor Mark

Let’s Go --- To God  Let’s Go --- Together  Let’s Go --- Into all the world
Our Saviour’s Lutheran Church of Stanwood
1876 — 2017

Street Address:
27201 99th Ave. NW
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Mailing Address:
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Stanwood, WA 98292

STAFF
Pastor: Mark Bankson
Office Secretary: Linda Hammer
Treasurer: Sheri Durham
Contemporary Worship Coordinator: Steve Dams
Choir Director: Erik Ronning
Organist: Marylee Sams
Music Coordinator: Connie Ronning
Custodian: Duane Holtmann
Preschool Director: Jaimi McCall

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Pastor email: bankson42@aol.com
Website: www.stanwoodoslc.org

Contact us at:
360.629.3767 or 360.629.3772

WORSHIP SCHEDULE
Traditional Worship ~ 8:45 am
Altar Communion 1st Sunday
Processional Communion 3rd Sunday

Coffee Hour ~ 9:45 am
Sunday School ~ 10:15 am

Contemporary Worship ~ 10:15 am
Altar Communion 1st Sunday
Processional Communion 3rd Sunday

2018 OSLC Officers and Council Members

Congregational Officers
President — Carol Curtis
Vice President — Ken Christopherson
Secretary — Irene Nelson
Treasurer — Sheri Durham

Council Members
Building and Grounds — Jerry Crofoot
Education — Becky Wietzke
Evangelism — Perry Watkins
Fellowship — Linda Haskins
Finance — Randy Zielsdorf
Social Concerns — Dee Jonson
Stewardship — Ian Graham
Worship and Music — Robin Erickson
Youth — Megan Ovenell

Pastor
Mark A. Bankson

Our Saviour’s Lutheran Church
Annual Meeting of the Congregation
Sunday
January 28, 2016
10:50 AM
Meeting will follow one worship service at 9:45 AM
New Year's Eve Worship
One Worship Service at 9:45 AM
Also, to be ready for the new year we will have a special presentation on Disaster Preparedness.

Women's Missions
The women's missions have been busy in 2017 serving those in need. A large selection of fleece scarves were made for Christmas House. For LWR School backpacks were made and personal care kits were filled with school supplies and toiletries with the help of the congregation. Baby care kits and quilts were also sent to LWR. Quilts were also given to the Everett Gospel Mission Women's shelter. The totals for the years are: LWR 100 school kits, 240 personal care kits, 45 quilts, and 12 baby care kits. EGM women's shelter 40 quilts and Christmas House received fleece scarves. Blessings to all who donated supplies and gave their time.

The mission quilters will begin the New Year with quilting dates of Tuesdays January 9, 16, 23, and the 30th in the Fireside Room from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. If you would like to join in this outreach you are welcome to come when you can. You don't need to know how to sew to do what we do. It's an excellent opportunity to connect with others passionate about serving in this way. Coffee is provided. If staying until 2:00 p.m. please bring a sack lunch.

Questions—contact Marilyn Templeton at 360-629-4779.

Van Trip
Lunch at Rhodes River Ranch
Friday, January 12, 11:00 AM
Please see the sign-up sheet in the narthex.
Questions? Call Robin Erickson, 360-941-1593

Platinum Chefs
Friday, January 5, 10:00 AM
The OSLC Platinum Chefs meet January 5th at 10:00 a.m.
IMPORTANT: If you are planning to come please call Dave Austin at 360-320-0437. (Guys make pies)

Save the Date!
Women's Retreat
October 3—5, 2018, Wednesday—Friday*
Rainbow Lodge in North Bend
*2019 will be a weekend one!

Dates to Keep in Mind...
January 1 — New Year’s Day
Church Office and Preschool Closed
January 8
January Council Meeting, 7:00 PM
January 14
Worship and Music Meeting, 11:30 AM
January 15 — Martin Luther King Day
Church Office and Preschool Closed
January 28
9:45 Worship — 10:50 Annual Meeting
**GROW (God Renewing Our Women)**

January 9th, 6:30 PM at the church

All women are invited to attend a new once-a-month Women’s Evening Small Group: GROW (God Renewing Our Women), Tuesday, January 9, 6:30 p.m. at the church. Even if you weren’t able to join us previously, we welcome you! Take time from your busy schedules to grow in faith and be renewed by God’s grace! Set in the evening so women who have commitments during the day are able to participate, and only once a month, our hope is this will be seen as a time of renewal and fellowship with other women rather than something to add to our ever-growing to-do lists.

We're doing a study called *Breathe; Making Room for the Sabbath*, written by The War Room's Priscilla Shirer. One of the greatest challenges for women in our culture is taking time to cease from all the activities and just breathe. We are in bondage to busyness. We constantly strive to complete the limitless to-do lists that hinder us from experiencing all that God has for us. By neglecting time for tranquility, serenity, and renewal, we limit our Christlikeness and miss out on some of God's greatest gifts. In the Old Testament, Sabbath was given to the Israelites as a gift, and it is still a gift to us today. If you are weary, worn out, and exhausted, then the concept of Sabbath will change your life. We invite any women who needs to be renewed to join us the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 6:30pm! For more information please contact Elsa Schwartz 206-714-7717 or Becky Wietzke 360-722-4377.

**Faith and Film**

Everyone is invited to join us Tuesday, January 23, at 6:00pm as we look at films through the lens of spirituality. Movies are a prevalent part of today's society, and many mainstream films contain demonstrations of many Christian themes including: faith, spirituality, forgiveness, hope, and redemption. In January we will explore these themes in the movie "Chocolat" starring Johnny Depp, Juliette Binoche, and Judi Dench. When a single mother and her six-year-old daughter move to rural France and open a chocolate shop - with Sunday hours, during Lent - across the street from the local church, they are met with some skepticism. We invite you to watch the movie ahead of time, and join us for dinner and discussion, starting at 6:00. Hosted by Nate and Elsa Schwartz, at their home: 45 S. Sunrise Blvd, Camano Island. RSVP if you can (elsacarlisle@hotmail.com or 206-714-7717), but if not, you are still welcome.

**Martha Circle**

The Martha Circle will hold their first meeting of 2018 on Wednesday, January 10th, at 1:00 p.m. in the Fireside Room. All ladies are invited to gather for dessert fellowship, business meeting and Bible study. The study for the day is “Rooted in Him,” chapter three, page 13, in the study book “Living In Jesus” from the Women of Life series. Martha Circle meets every second Wednesday of the month during the school year. Contact person is Elsie Pritchard, 360-629-3940.

**Wednesday Women’s Bible Study**

We will begin meeting on Wednesday, January 10th, at 9:00 a.m. We will be starting a six-week study by Max Lucado called “Anxious for Nothing...Finding Calm in a Chaotic World”. Books will be available at the first meeting. Contact person: Kathy Beauchamp, 360-387-0120.
Moments for Mission

What a wonderful response! Thank you to all who eagerly raised their hands to write a Christmas card to the guys at the Monroe Correctional Complex. We reached 100 men. Next year, let’s try for 10 times that! What an encouragement to them!

And don’t forget Mission Fest 2018. Mark Saturday, January 27th for a day to learn about missions and celebrate what God is doing globally. The theme this year is: What is the Gospel? Google: Missions Fest 2018 Vancouver and read about this free event. We want to take a van to Vancouver so we can explore together. Sign-ups coming early January.

Idea for a mission? Call any of our members: Cindy TD, Debbie Holtmann, Linda Contreras, Rose King, or Rich Huyler. We can help you get started! And if you have a desire to help us out, we could use other members of our team.

News from the Caring Place

Hi friends! We are due to open February 1, 2018. As many of you know we rely solely on donations to provide this service in our community.

We will start resetting the house mid January so clean out your closets and drawers and consider donating your gently-used unwanted items to the Caring Place.

Last year (2017) we served over 5000 people which was an increase from the 3600 people we served in 2016.

Please consider volunteering for this ministry. There are several different opportunities available. As always call Mardi with questions or concerns at 360-913-1551.

Housing Hope Holiday Program

A humble and heartfelt thank you to those of you who donated to our Christmas gift card drive. You provided over 21 gift cards to the families of Lincoln Hill and Lervick Family Village, and many stockings were adopted for the 70 children in our housing. Our families have been blessed and are so grateful to each of you. Thank You! 

Dee Jonson, Stanwood Ambassadors for Housing Hope

Could You Use a Stephen Minister?

In addition to the cold weather outside, many people experience winters in their personal lives. The joy of Christmas can turn into a time of painful loneliness and emptiness. A recent loss through death, divorce, or relocation may leave them feeling lonely. A hospitalization, a cancer diagnosis, or ongoing medical problems may leave them feeling isolated. The loss of a job, the fear of layoffs, or a financial setback can devastate one’s self-esteem. Family and personal struggles may leave them with nowhere to turn for support.

If you are going through a difficult time, our Stephen Ministers can bring God’s warm love back into your life. They provide confidential, one-to-one Christian care. They will meet with you privately on a weekly basis to listen, to support and encourage you, to pray with and for you, and to walk with you for the duration of your crisis.

To find out more about Stephen Ministry and how you or someone you know could be matched with one of Our Saviour’s 15 Stephen Ministers, talk with Pastor Mark or one of our Stephen Leaders:

Annette Bowden: (H)360-548-8513 (C)509-531-4510 am.annette@gmail.com
Carol Curtis: (H)360-387-1189 (C)206-271-8535 curtisct@wavecable.com
Tom Curtis: (H)360-387-1189 (C)206-271-8536 curtisct@wavecable.com
Pastor Mark: 360-629-3767

Our Stephen Ministers are ready to care for you!
Prayer Requests
Please help us keep our prayer list current by contacting the office with updates.

Please pray for ...
Friends and family of Addie Rygmyr, Audrey Knutson and Earl Sundberg; Pat Lund; Jon Walker (friend of Linda Contreras and Ken Kraintz); Ron Nelson; B. J. Winship; Nicole and Beckham Coutermarsh (daughter and son-in-law of Matt and Ann McCune; Bud Hutter; Dale Tetlow; Sharon Richards; Scott and Steve Jensen (sons of Carol Jensen); Roger and Linda Lervick; Beverley Klatt; Sandi Torrez; Rob S. Ulbricht; Jo Hoag; Barb and Jim Sickler; Jim Neher; Emily Brower (friend of Angela Libengood); Johnny O'Brien (nephew of Mickey Henderson); Steve Bodnar (friend of Kathy Beauchamp); Christie Robbin (friend of Michael Brady); Lauren Pickens; Steve Dams; John Gedstad (brother of Alex Gedstad); Dave and Rosemary Edwards (friends of Ramona Snowden); John and Kathryn Shirlock; Dean Fox (brother of Bob Fox); Don Hickey (brother of Barb Sickler); Gordon Pedersen; Pat Jones; Wayne Larson; Al Orsland; Paul Walderhaug; Judy Anderson; Kip Gibson and family; Kenny Yoder (nephew of Donna Cook); Kim Anderson, son of Donna Hefty; Marilyn Shipley; Barbara Hillman (Mardi Jorgenson’s mother); Ray Erps; Ric Shallow; Cameron Cozzi; Doris Hatlen; John White; Jim Woodward (Charlie Sylling’s nephew); Samson and Johnny Gard (Grant & Phyllis Gard’s grandsons); Eldon Allen; Gretchen Orsland
Pastor Mark, OSLC staff; Our Saviour’s Lutheran Congregation,
Homeless, Armed Forces, Josephine & Warm Beach residents,
Government and Community leaders

Thank You to Our Saviour’s Family
Thank you so much for the wonderful support our family has received from our church family through Jim’s illness and passing. Thank you to Pastor Mark who spent several days at Jim’s bedside and with our family, with caring and comforting messages. Pastor Terry and Pastor Jack offered comfort and encouragement also. Thank you to Linda Hammer for her assistance with the service planning and details.
A special thanks to Dave Brandt who was by our side through the last days with visits and comfort. And thank you so much to the Martha Circle ladies and Sheri Durham for their planning and assistance in providing a very special time of sharing and food after the Memorial. There are so many of you who were a part of Jim’s life, and there for us during this tough time. A special thanks to all of you. Our family is truly blessed to have Our Saviour’s Family!
Pat Lund and Family

Concert at Trinity Lutheran Church
Trinity Lutheran Church at 6215 196th St. SW in Lynnwood will feature a concert January 14th at 7 p.m. in which two organists and three string players, among them Svend Ronning, perform a program celebrating Mozart’s birthday month. They will perform Mozart’s church sonatas and also four-hand organ pieces by Mozart. (Svend shares Mozart’s birthdate in January.) If interested in carpooling from church, please call: 360-629-3134 or call or text: 360-280-1204 or 360-941-1593. Connie Ronning

Scripture Texts
To better prepare for worship:

January 6, 2018
Epiphany of Our Lord
Isaiah 60:1-6
Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14
Ephesians 3:1-12
Matthew 2:1-12

January 7, 2018
Baptism of Our Lord
Genesis 1:1-5
Psalm 29
Acts 19:1-7
Mark 1:4-11

January 14, 2018
2nd Sunday of Epiphany
I Samuel 3:1-10 [11-20]
Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
I Corinthians 6:12-20
John 1:43-51

January 21, 2018
3rd Sunday of Epiphany
Jonah 3:1-5, 10
Psalm 62:5-12
I Corinthians 7:29-31
Mark 1:14-20

January 28, 2018
4th Sunday of Epiphany
Deuteronomy 18:15-20
Psalm 111
I Corinthians 8:1-13
Mark 1:21-28

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Pat Lund and Family
Winter ConneXion
Wednesdays —
6—8 PM
Begins January 10th

Dinner and
Adult Study!

Special Worship Service
Schedule at
Our Saviour’s Lutheran Church

Sunday, New Year’s Eve
9:45 AM One Worship Service

Sunday, January 28th
9:45 AM One Worship Service

Annual Meeting will follow our worship service on January 28th.