

Welcome to Our Savior's Lutheran Church!

We are the "church with a heart"!

Drive by our building on West 33rd Street and you'll notice a colorful mural with a bold cross anchored firmly in a huge heart. Those two images tell our story.

We are a community of believers grounded in the cross. We believe Jesus died for the world – the whole world, including those who are in our congregation and those still beyond our doors. His gifts of forgiveness and new life are here for the taking.

And we are "the church with a heart" too. Whenever we gather as the forgiven people of Christ, we trust that love and grace will abound. Whether in worship, study, fellowship, or service, we are here to share the love of Christ and help one another connect with God. It is the "heart" of all we do.

So . . . if you are a member of Our Savior's, a visitor, or just a curious neighbor, consider joining in one or more of our many ministries this year. You are welcome here. Our hearts and doors are open to you.

Come and Worship!

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God." Colossians 3:16

Worship is the center of community life at Our Savior's. At least five worship services are offered every weekend.

Traditional worship (also known as "Festive" worship) is held on Saturday evenings at 5 p.m. and on Sunday mornings at 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. in the church sanctuary. Holy Communion is celebrated at the 5 p.m. and 8 a.m. services every week and at the 11 a.m. service on the first Sunday of the month.

Contemporary worship (also known as "Celebrate" worship) is held on Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. in the sanctuary and at 11:07 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall (on the lower level). During the summer months, these services move outdoors. Holy Communion is celebrated every third Sunday of the month.

Every effort is made to make worship accessible to people with special needs. Large-print bulletins and personal p.a. devices are available to those whose sight or hearing is impaired. Wheelchair ramps, handicapped accessible restrooms, an elevator and reserved seating in the sanctuary are available to those with other physical disabilities.

The pastors and staff encourage and welcome children to join their parents in public worship. Special children's bulletins and activity bags are available at the

ushers' station in the church lobby. A fully staffed nursery is also available from 8 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. every Sunday morning during the academic year and from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. during the summer.

Two of the five worship services are telecast each week for those who are unable to worship in person.

The 9:30 a.m. Celebrate service is telecast live on KTTW-TV, cable channel 9, each Sunday morning.

The 11:00 a.m. Festive service is aired by tape-delayed telecast on KSCB-TV, cable channel 30, on Sunday afternoons at 1 p.m.

Television viewers may request in advance a worship bulletin of the Sunday telecasts from the church office.

In addition to regular Sunday worship, Our Savior's also celebrates **special seasons and themes** in worship throughout the year. Some of these celebrations are incorporated into the Sunday morning schedule. For example, on Indian Relations Sunday (September 29), worship includes a Native American preacher, as well as Indian dancers, drummers, and flutists. On the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi (October 13), we invite everyone to bring their pet for the annual blessing of the animals on the church lawn. Close to Christmas (December 15), the adult choirs of Our Savior's lead worship with a Christmas Choral Service. And on Global Mission Sunday (January 12), we celebrate the faith of Christians around the world with a missionary preacher, a pageant of international flags and costumes, and multicultural music.

But some special seasons and events are also celebrated with **midweek worship opportunities**. Services of healing, for example, are offered regularly on Tuesday evenings. During Advent, the four weeks before Christmas, we prepare for Christ's birth each Wednesday with services at 9:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. During Lent, the 40 days before Easter, we recall Jesus' journey to his cross with worship every Wednesday at 9:30 a.m., 6:00 p.m., and 7:00 p.m. And there are many other midweek opportunities as well. Even if you work on weekends, we are confident you can find an opportunity to worship at Our Savior's.

Come and Learn!

“My child, do not forget my teaching, but let your heart keep my commandments; for length of days and years of life and abundant welfare they will give you. Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not rely on your own insight. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.” Proverbs 3:1-2, 5-6

Like most human relationships, our relationship with Christ grows, changes, and challenges us throughout all of life. Lifelong learning and spiritual formation are essential to the faith journey. Our Savior's offers numerous educational

opportunities through programs of Adult Education, Sunday School, Youth Ministries, and Library Ministries. Each person can find an area of interest and a method of learning that works for them.

Adult Education

Sunday Morning Magazine: Each Sunday during the academic year, beginning on September 15, we provide opportunities for topical discussion at 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. in the Friendship Room. Guest speakers address topics such as Internet Safety for Children, Hunger and Homelessness in Sioux Falls, and informational sessions on Stephen Ministry.

Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study: Each Sunday, beginning on September 15, we provide adult Bible studies at 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. in the Conference Room. These Bible studies are facilitated by pastors, lay leaders, and others from the community.

Sunday Evening Couple's Bible Study: Couples from Our Savior's meet each Sunday evening for Bible Study and fellowship. The Bible study is aimed at helping couples grow together in their understanding of God's Word and how it applies to marriage and family. Beginning on September 15, couples meet at 6:00 p.m. for Bible study followed by free time for the couples from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. Childcare will be provided the entire time, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. There is a small cost to cover study materials and childcare.

Adult Basics: On Wednesday evenings during the academic year, the pastors of Our Savior's provide the parents of confirmation students and any other interested adults the opportunity to refresh their understanding of the basics of the Christian faith. Using lecture, small and large group discussions, and interactive exercises, these classes review material in the Old and New Testaments and in Christian doctrine, such as the creeds, the sacraments, prayer, and the Ten Commandments. Class material is arranged to coincide thematically with material being covered by 7th, 8th, and 9th grade students in confirmation classes. Sessions are held from 6:15 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Friendship Bible Coffee: Starting on September 10, Avis Skalland, a lay member of Our Savior's, will lead a Friendship Bible study on Tuesdays at 3:30 p.m. This Bible study is about 90 minutes in length and is open to men and women. It meets in Sunday School Room #3 on the main level of the church building. The topic for the Fall 2002 study is "Knowing God's Will."

Play and Pray: Join a support group of young mothers and talk about the Bible too. Play and Pray is one of the caring ministries at Our Savior's, but it incorporates Bible study into its support group format. Play and Pray meets on Thursdays from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. in the Sunshine Room. Childcare is provided at the same time in the nursery. Any mothers with children under

school age are welcome. Topics for this year's Bible study include "What is God Like?" and "Where is the Holy Spirit?"

Joy of Living Bible Study: Beginning on September 25, and continuing on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of every month through the end of April, all interested women are invited to gather for a Bible study which continues last year's study in the Gospel of John. Participants need not have been part of the study last year to join. Connie Salmela will lead the study in the Friendship Room from 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. The fee for each quarter of lessons (seven per quarter) is \$5.00.

Baptism Basics Class: If you are a parent or grandparent ready to bring a child to the waters of Baptism, or if you are an adult who would like to prepare for baptism yourself, you may join the pastors of Our Savior's for a pre-baptism class. This class is taught on the third Saturday of every month at 9:30 a.m. in the Conference Room. It is a biblically-based, in-depth study of the Lutheran understanding of baptism as sacrament. Call the church office to register.

New Member Classes: New members are received at Our Savior's in October, February, and July. A new member class, taught by the pastors, provides an orientation to the church's mission, the Bible, worship, and Lutheran theology. New members are also invited to meet the church staff at a Saturday morning brunch, where the ministries of the congregation are outlined. A ritual, welcoming the new members, is incorporated into Sunday morning worship.

Lutheran Men in Mission: On the last Saturday morning of every month at 8:30 a.m., the men of Our Savior's meet for topical Bible study. These discussions are meant to enhance the group's mission, which is the "building up of men for Christ," and growing together as Christian men in God's service. Senior pastor Les Svendson leads the studies. There are no membership fees for those who join the group.

Our Savior's Lutheran Women of the ELCA: All women who attend Our Savior's are members of the Women of the ELCA (W/ELCA). As such, they are invited to participate in the many activities of the women's organization. General meetings, held on the first Thursday of the month, feature guest speakers who discuss Christian life, service to others, and life in the Sioux Falls community. Yet another activity is Bible study. On the third Thursday of each month, smaller groups of women, known as "circles," gather in members' homes and at church to deepen their understanding of God's word. A new study entitled "Grace upon Grace: A Study in the Gospel of John" will begin in September. Interwoven throughout all these activities is the benevolence of the W/ELCA organization. Women gather offerings to support helping agencies in Sioux Falls, Lutheran service agencies, and projects within the congregation. On the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month, the Quilters also meet to make quilts for Lutheran World Relief, an international relief and development organization working

against hunger. Don't let the name "Quilters" frighten you, though. The only sewing or quilting skill you really need is knowing how to tie knots!

Women of Witness (WOW): This group is an alternative Bible Study circle for women, facilitated by Pastor Lehr. Meetings are on the 3rd Thursday of the month from September to May in the Friendship Room at 7:00 p.m. Women of all ages and backgrounds are welcome. The group chooses its own topic of study. Past series have included "Tough Questions" and "Women of the Bible." The first meeting is September 19.

Sunday School

Rally Sunday: A time for celebration! We kick off the Sunday School year with a festive atmosphere. Balloons in the sanctuary welcome families and children back from the summer months. Children and their families worship together during their typical Sunday School hour and participate in a special dedication ritual, which pledges children, parents, teachers, and congregation to work together in teaching the faith. Rally Sunday will be held on September 8.

Regular Sunday School: Children 2 years old through 6th grade participate in small group settings, where Christian education is taught by methods such as singing, Bible study, games, discussion, and enrichment activities. Classes are created to allow children to be grouped with other children at their age and grade level. Two regular Sunday School sessions are available: 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Middle School Sunday School: Youth in grades 7 through 9 come together to learn about God's Word. Two sessions are available at 9:30 a.m. and at 11:00 a.m.

High School Sunday School: Teenagers in grades 9 through 12 meet together, discuss God's love and how it affects them in their daily lives. Students may attend sessions at 9:30 a.m. or at 11:00 a.m.

Family Celebration: Children and parents join together once each year with children and parents at the same grade level to fellowship together, enjoy each other's company, and get to know one another. Activities are planned to end with an ice cream social. Family Celebrations are held from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings in Fellowship Hall on designated dates.

"Buddy" Sunday: Two times during the Sunday School year students from different grade levels get together to help one another learn about God. Students participate in a specially planned activity to help foster teamwork and friendship building.

First Communion Class and Agape Meals: Fifth grade students prepare for their first communion the week before Easter. They attend a class with the

pastors to review the stories of the Passover and the Last Supper. The fifth graders, their families, and if possible, their baptismal sponsors then attend a dinner (the Agape Meal) where they receive the sacrament for the first time. Agape Meals are held on April 16 and April 17.

Halloween Costume and Reading Party: Elementary school children dress up in their Halloween costumes and visit residents at a nearby nursing home. The kids read favorite poems and short stories to their elderly friends. Decorations are made by the children to decorate the residents' doors. This year's party will be held on Saturday, October 26.

Rosebud Food and Mitten Drive: Sunday School children and many other individuals in the congregation donate purchased and/or handmade hats and mittens and non-perishable food items throughout the Sundays in November. In December, several volunteers pack and deliver these "warm" gifts to the Spring Creek community on the Rosebud Indian Reservation. The volunteers also prepare a community dinner and Christmas party for Spring Creek residents, and spend the night as their guests.

Advent Fair: A fun family event that features crafts, food, music and fellowship. This evening guarantees to be an annual highlight for children and their families. The Advent Fair is held on the first Wednesday evening of Advent, December 4, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in classrooms and multipurpose rooms throughout the building.

Angel Tree: Families of Our Savior's take the name of a child in need from a special Christmas tree in the Friendship Room and purchase a gift for him/her. Gifts are then distributed to the children in need through five helping agencies in the Sioux Falls areas. Names may be picked from the tree during the month of December.

Sunday School Children Singing in Worship: On December 8, children will sing Christmas songs that they have rehearsed during Sunday School in public worship at the 9:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m., and 11:07 a.m. services.

Children's Christmas Service: Every year on Christmas Eve at 3:30 p.m., the young people and Sunday School children of Our Savior's lead a worship service. Any child, from kindergarten through high school, can be involved. The worship service features a dramatic presentation of the Christmas story. Two rehearsals are scheduled to prepare for the service.

2002/2003 Sunday School Schedule

September 8

Rally Sunday – Sunday School begins!

September 15, 22, 29 October 6	Worship, during your typical Sunday School hour, with your family and meet your teacher after the service. Regular Sunday School Regular Sunday School and Family Celebration for 5 th and 6 th grade students and their families
October 13 October 20, 27 November 3	"Buddy Sunday" during Sunday School Regular Sunday School Regular Sunday School and Family Celebration for 3 rd and 4 th grade students and their families
November 10, 17, 24 December 1	Regular Sunday School <i>No Sunday School due to Thanksgiving Holiday</i>
December 8	Regular Sunday School and Singing during Worship
December 15 December 22, 29	Regular Sunday School <i>No Sunday School due to Christmas holiday</i>
January 5, 12 January 19 January 26 February 2	Regular Sunday School "Buddy Sunday" during Sunday School Regular Sunday School Regular Sunday School and Family Celebration for 1 st and 2 nd grade students
February 9 February 16	Regular Sunday School <i>No Sunday School due to Presidents' Day holiday</i>
February 23 March 2, 9	Regular Sunday School Regular Sunday School and Disabilities Awareness
March 16 March 23	Regular Sunday School Regular Sunday School and Family Celebration for pre-kindergarten and kindergarten students
March 30 April 6	Regular Sunday School Regular Sunday School and Family Celebration for 2 year old and 3 year old students and their families
April 13	Regular Sunday School and Waving Palms in Palm Sunday Worship
April 20 April 27	<i>No Sunday School due to Easter</i> Regular Sunday School and Teacher's Appreciation Day
May 4	Regular Sunday School

May 11

Last Day of Sunday School and Singing
in Worship

Youth Ministries

High School

Service Trips: Each summer, the high school youth travel to another part of the country to serve families in need. The trip encourages the youth to explore their faith, serve others and develop relationships.

Special Events: Bowling, Christmas parties, service projects, and cookouts are just a few of the events planned to encourage the development of friendships and faith.

S.W.A.T. (Serving, Witnessing All Together): Once a month the Lutheran churches of Sioux Falls come together for a big event. Special speakers, Christian comedy groups, and Christian bands are just a few examples of the activities that several hundred youth participate in each month.

Wednesday Night Live: Join us for a night of friends, faith, and fun. Led by adult and student leaders, youth will play games, discuss their faith, and develop a relationship with Christ. Wednesday Night Live begins on September 18 at 6:30 p.m. in the Youth Room and continues with a coffeehouse from 8:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Retreats and Youth Gatherings: Retreats are great opportunities for youth to meet new friends while working on their faith. Join us for the following: Synod Youth Gathering, November 1-3; Ski Retreat, February 14-17; and the National Youth Gathering in July 2003.

High School Hour: Come connect with other students through worship, prayer, and Bible studies. Youth can attend during the 9:30 or 11:00 a.m. Sunday School hours.

Middle School

Special Events: Monthly events are planned for youth in 6th, 7th and 8th grades. These events, including lock-ins, scavenger hunts, and bowling, encourage fun and friendship.

Confirmation: Our Savior's is committed to teaching the faith to youth for their spiritual development. Confirmation is a program that enables youth in 7th, 8th, and 9th grades to learn about the Ten Commandments, the Apostle's Creed, the Lord's Prayer, and the Bible. The program includes small groups, retreats, and worship. Students meet on Wednesday evenings from 6:15 to 7:30 p.m. beginning on September 11 and continuing through Spring.

Wednesday Nights: Meet your friends for an hour of hanging out in the Youth Room and eating pizza. Youth can play pool, games, and fuss-ball from 5:00 to 6:15 p.m.

Middle School Hour: Every Sunday students can sign up for an hour of creative Bible teaching, games, and small group discussion. Youth can attend during the 9:30 or the 11:00 a.m. Sunday School hours.

Parent/Family Ministry: Youth are not the only people who need ministry! Our parent/family ministry begins with a six-week parenting class for parents, teens and pre-teen youth on September 18 from 6:15 to 7:30 p.m.

Camp Ministry: During the summer months, Our Savior's encourages youth to participate in the Lutheran camping programs of our synod. Multiple weeks are offered for youth to camp, ride horse, swim, hike, and learn more about God.

Library Ministries

Our Savior's Library, a family library established in 1962, serves members of all ages in the congregation and in the community. Since its inception, the library has continued to expand its services and to provide for changing media and educational needs. Support comes primarily from the church budget; gifts and memorials are also welcome. Numerous volunteers who work the checkout desk, prepare new books, repair used books and hymnals, shelve materials, serve on the library committee and perform other tasks assist the part-time librarian.

Print Materials:

The library has **books** for all age levels: toddler, pre-school, beginning readers, junior, youth and adult. Non-fiction adult subjects (over 2500 books) are classified under the Dewey Decimal system and include books on theology and personal devotions, family and personal life, social issues, church history, Christian education, science, art, literature, biographies, self-improvement and history. The library has over 600 fiction titles, which include Christian, popular, and classic literature.

Reference materials in the library include several sets of Old and New Testament commentaries as well as numerous single volume commentaries, Bible dictionaries, atlases and concordances, and a variety of biblical translations.

The library also offers over 80 books in **large print**.

You can also find as many as 14 **periodicals and magazines** available for checkout.

Non-Print Media:

The library offers 300 **CDs** (for children, teens, and adults), **audio cassettes** (music, lectures, Bible, sermons, and over 100 books on tape), 400 Christian and education **videos** for children, and 200 videos for adults and families. We are

just beginning a collection of **books on CD** and materials on **DVD**. Watch for new titles.

Checking Out:

All items are checked out for 3 weeks, except videos and reserve items which are due back in one week. Our due date is always on Sunday, so if you check out an item on a weekday, you can keep it until 3 weeks after the coming Sunday.

There is a self-checkout procedure posted on the desk for times when no volunteer or librarian is available to assist you.

The library adds new items every month with newer books on special display.

Special Services Offered:

On request, the library will prepare **topical reading lists**.

By filling out a form you can **reserve** items currently checked out by someone else.

For a fee the librarian can **duplicate non-copyrighted cassette tapes**.

We have a **free magazine exchange** where you may bring recent magazines that you no longer need and take other magazines that have been donated.

Library Hours:

The library is available to users Monday through Friday, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (If you find the library locked, go to the church office for assistance). During the school year, the library is open on Wednesday evenings from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. On Sundays, the library is open from 7:45 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Non-Members:

If you do not belong to Our Savior's, you can still use our library resources. Call the librarian at 336-2942, ext. 25, to set up an initial visit and to complete a registration form.

Also Noteworthy:

The library hosts an **annual used book sale** in February.

Each summer the library sponsors a **summer reading program**.

Our Savior's has a short story **Readers Group** that meets in the Fall and Winter on Monday evenings. In addition, a **Writers Group** meets on Monday evenings. Call the church office for more information on these groups.

Come and Sing!

"Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth; sing the glory of his name; give to him glorious praise. Say to God, 'How awesome are your deeds!'" Psalm 66:1-3a.

Music and the fine arts enrich our expression and understanding of the Christian faith. There are many ongoing opportunities for people of all ages.

Children's Choirs:

Children's choirs are exciting ways for a child to explore their faith through the music they sing. It's a wonderful way to learn about worship and being a worship leader, to develop musical skills and to be part of a caring, loving community within the church. All children's choirs meet weekly on Wednesday evenings from 5:30 to 6:00 p.m. and sing in public worship approximately once a month. The first rehearsal is on September 11.

Young Saints Choir – for children 4 years old through kindergarten

Laudate Choir – for children in 1st through 4th grades

Jubilate Choir – for children in 5th through 8th grades

Adult Choirs:

The adult choirs sing music from the church's earliest days to the new millennium. Singing the old and new songs and words of faith help choir members, as well as the congregation, see, hear, and experience the flow of church beliefs and music throughout the centuries. The adult choirs take part in Advent/Christmas choral services each year, as well as the spring concert at the end of the singing season.

Senior Choir – The Senior Choir sings weekly for worship, primarily for the 11:00 a.m. Festive service, but also sings occasionally for services at other times. Rehearsals are on Wednesdays from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. The first rehearsal is on August 28.

Response Singers – The Response Singers sing for worship approximately once a month. They also sing as an outreach choir, providing music at other churches, care facilities, and the state penitentiary. Rehearsals are held on Sunday mornings from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. The first rehearsal is September 8.

Women's Choir – The Women's Choir sings approximately once a month for worship. It is a choir dedicated to singing music written for treble voices. There has been a large increase in the amount of music written specifically for women's choirs and it is an exciting choral experience for singers. This choir rehearses on Tuesday mornings from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. The first rehearsal is September 10.

Youth and Adult Bell Choirs:

The bell choirs at Our Savior's provide opportunities for participation in an instrumental ensemble for people of all ages. The bells are used as an accompaniment for singers and instrumentalists, accompany hymns, and play pieces on their own. It is helpful that ringers know how to read notes and rhythms, but if you like to ring and do not have a musical background, we will teach you what you need to know. Because of the nature of bell octaves, there are a specific number of ringers we need in each choir. Let us know as soon as possible your desire to ring so you can have a spot!

Hosanna Ringers – for children in 3rd through 5th grades. Rehearsals are on Wednesdays from 4:30 to 5:00 p.m. Many of the ringers in this group are new to ringing and we start with the basics, teaching notes, rhythms, and ringing

techniques. Hosanna Ringers play about once a month in worship. The first rehearsal is Wednesday, September 11.

Joy Ringers – for middle school and high school youth. Rehearsals are on Wednesdays from 5:00 to 5:30 p.m. This choir rings for worship about once a month. The first rehearsal is Wednesday, September 11.

Bells of Our Saviors – for post-high school ringers. Rehearsals are on Monday evenings from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. The Bells of Our Savior's ring for worship once a month. The first rehearsal is Monday, September 9.

Instrumentalists and Vocalists: Instrumentalists are often used as soloists, accompanists, and in ensembles. If you play an orchestral or band instrument, let us know that you are interested in playing for worship. Vocal soloists are also welcome to be part of the cantor roster. Cantors lead liturgy, psalms, hymns, and offer solo work in the Festive worship settings.

Drama and Puppet Ministries: Drama is incorporated into worship settings throughout the year, especially around the seasons of Advent and Lent. Puppet ministry is used in worship as well as other children's programs. These roles are best suited for those actors of high school age or above.

Come and Care!

"Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ." Galatians 6:2

Our Savior's hosts a number of programs, classes, and services which are designed to support those with physical or spiritual needs. A parish nurse is also available for health and educational counseling. Some of the caring ministries we provide are listed here for your information.

Stephen Ministry:

This program equips lay persons to provide distinctively Christian one-to-one care to those who are experiencing all kinds of life needs and circumstances, both in the congregation and in the wider community. Stephen Leaders meet on the first Saturday of the month at 10:00 a.m. Stephen Ministers meet for continuing education and supervision on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month at 7:00 p.m. and on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month at 9:00 a.m.

Friendship Club:

Individuals over the age of 60 meet monthly for fellowship and educational programs. The Friendship Club meetings are held on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 10:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Healthy Lifestyle Exercise and Nutrition Classes:

Participants gather for nutrition education programs and low impact exercise twice a week. Exercise sessions are held on Mondays and Thursdays at 10 a.m.

Yoga classes meet on Fridays at 9:30 a.m. Nutrition programs are held on Mondays at 9:30 am. All meetings are held in the Learning Center.

Living with Cancer:

This cancer support group meets every Tuesday at 2:00 p.m. Individuals and families who have had cancer or are currently experiencing the challenge of cancer are welcome. If you cannot attend the meetings, but would like to be part of our prayer and devotional mailing, call the church office.

Coping with Depression:

A support group for individuals who are experiencing depression. This group meets every Wednesday at 9:00 a.m. in the Sunshine Room.

Play and Pray:

Mothers of young children meet for discussion, support, and Bible Study. Babysitting is provided by the nursery staff. Play and Pray meets on Thursdays at 9:30 a.m. in the Sunshine Room.

Elizabeth Ministry:

Elizabeth Ministry provides blankets to all new babies and mentors to mothers through their child-bearing years. If you would like an Elizabeth Minister, call the church office.

Healing Touch:

Volunteers are trained by professionals to provide Christian-centered energy-based therapeutic care. Meetings are held every Tuesday at 11:00 a.m.

Parish Cruiser:

The Parish Cruiser will drive you anywhere in the city to “maintain the health of your body, mind, and soul.” Operating hours are Monday through Friday, May through September, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. Call the church office to schedule a ride.

Phone Ministry:

Volunteers with a caring ear call those individuals needing an extra touch.

Pre-Marriage Classes:

Engaged couples who are preparing for marriage meet together to discuss topics such as financial planning, communication, sexuality, etc. Four sessions are offered three times a year: Fall, October 6, 13, 20, 27; Winter, February 16, 23, March 2, 9; Summer, June 8, 15, 22, 29.

Healing Services:

A special worship service with prayer and the laying on of hands for individuals who are experiencing an illness, recent loss, or some other transition in life that causes distress. Healing services are held on the third Tuesday of the month at

7:00 p.m. Watch for them on August 20, October 15, December 17, February 18, April 15, June 17, and August 19.

Special Monthly Events:

September: The Women of Faith Conference, September 13 and 14, Excel Energy Center, St. Paul, Minnesota. Registration information and bus transportation are available through the church office.

October: (1) Bless the Years Sunday, October 20. A celebration of aging expressed in worship, adult forums, and a noon luncheon. (2) Stephen Ministry Retreat, October 25-27, Blue Cloud Abbey, Marvin, S.D. (3) Spiritual Formation Bible Study, October 6, 13, 20, 27

November: Spiritual Formation Bible Study, November 3, 10, 17, 24

December: Stephen Ministry Recruitment, November 30 and December 1

January: (1) Stephen Ministry Series begins January 7 at 7:00 p.m. and continues through Spring. (2) Health Ministry Conference, January 21.

March: Disabilities Awareness, March 2 and 9. Special opportunities and forums to be planned.

April: "Five Last Wishes" in Sunday Morning Magazine, April 13.

May: Stephen Ministry Banquet, May 17, and Stephen Ministry Commissioning Sunday, May 18.

Special Health Screening Opportunities:

Blood pressure screenings are available each month. Foot Care Clinics are held every three months (August, November, January, April, June). In addition the following emphases and programs are also highlighted.

October: Mental Health Awareness and Screening for Depression

November: Diabetes Awareness and Screening

December: Focus on Babies and Children; Elizabeth Ministry Open House

January: Donate blood when the Bloodmobile visits OSL on a Sunday morning

February: Heart Awareness with Cholesterol Screening

March: Nutrition and Health Eating emphasis, with healthy snacks offered for Sunday Morning fellowship time

April: Cancer Awareness

June: Donate blood when the Bloodmobile visits OSL on a Sunday morning

Come and Belong!

"Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God." I John 4:9

Our Savior's honors Christian community by providing many opportunities for people to connect with one another, break bread together, and have some fun.

Shepherd Dinner Groups:

Singles and couples sign up to join a dinner group in September. Participants are then organized into groups of 4-8 people for a four-month period. Each small group gets together once a month to share a meal in a host home. The host

provides the entrée and beverage; the others in the shepherd group assist with side dishes, salads, and dessert. Participants take turns doing the hosting. In January the groups are reshuffled and everyone has the opportunity to get to know another set of friends.

Advent and Lenten Dinners:

Every year during the Advent and Lenten seasons, Our Savior's hosts congregational dinners, followed by brief worship services at the dinner table. The meals are family-friendly in price, style, and menu. Worship services last about 20 minutes after each meal and incorporate creative means of sharing the Word such as dramatic monologues by actors portraying biblical characters, puppet productions, musical settings for evening prayer, and the like. The meals are held at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday evenings. This year's Advent dinners will be on December 11 and 18. Lenten dinners will be held on March 12, 19, 26, April 2 and 9.

Special Interest Groups:

Any small group of people with a special interest or hobby can organize for fellowship at Our Savior's. Some groups that have organized in the past include an intramural basketball team and a summer motorcycling group. Information on the small groups' activities and schedules are usually printed in the church bulletin.

Monthly Fellowship Events:

The Board for Parish Life organizes at least one congregational event simply for the sake of fellowship and fun every month. Most events are for people of all ages; however, a few cater to children or adults specifically. Some of the annual traditions for fellowship include the following:

Labor Day Golf Tournament: September 1, Bakkers' Crossing Golf Course

Hayride and Campfire: September 15, Country Apple Orchard

Parade of Lights Dinner: November 29, Minerva's Restaurant, Downtown

Christmas Caroling and Chili Supper: December

Couples Progressive Dinner: January

Easter Egg Hunt: April 12, Fellowship Hall

Summer Celebration (picnic, carnival games, street races); June

Name Tag Sundays:

Our Savior's observes Name Tag Sunday on the first Sunday of every month during the school year. Stations are set-up throughout the church building so that every one who comes through the church doors has the opportunity to get a nametag and wear it for the morning. A great way to make a few friendly connections in a large congregation.

Come and Serve!

Jesus said, "Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you. . .for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me. . .Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." Matthew 25:34-37, 40

Just as Jesus gave his life for the world, we give ourselves to those in need. Our Savior's helps Christians put their faith into action with many service ministries.

Refugee Resettlement:

Our Savior's has settled refugee families for over 20 years, with a new family arriving once every 18-24 months. The Refugee Resettlement Committee locates and furnishes an apartment, meets the refugee family at the airport, teaches them how to use the city bus system, assists with grocery shopping, medical appointments, and school registrations, and practices conversational English with the family on a regular basis.

Food Pantry Collections:

Our Savior's gathers donations of non-perishable food and cash for the Sioux Falls Food Pantry on the first Sunday of every month. The donations may be dropped off at the ushers' stations.

Meals at the Banquet:

Volunteers serve two meals each year at the Banquet, a helping agency for the hungry and homeless in downtown Sioux Falls. This year an evening meal will be served on Friday, March 7, and a breakfast on Thursday, June 5. Volunteers are needed to prepare the meals, serve them, and visit with the guests.

Souper Sunday and Feed My Sheep Week:

On Sunday, February 2, Our Savior's hosts host Carolyn Downs, director of the Banquet, in the Sunday Morning Magazine. At noon of the same day, we serve homemade soup and bread to homeless families who are bused to the church from various downtown locations. This Souper Sunday is the kick-off to Feed My Sheep Week which continues a feeding ministry throughout the city from February 3 to 8. During the week, dozens of Our Savior's volunteers serve meals in agencies such as the St. Francis House, the Banquet, the Good Shepherd Center, Berrakah House, and Sioux Vocational group homes. Some volunteers also assist with office work, housecleaning and painting at other social agencies.

CROP Walk:

This event is a city-wide, faith-based effort to alleviate hunger. It is voluntarily coordinated by members of Our Savior's, but involves people from many churches around town. Volunteers sign up to walk several miles on a prescribed course. They collect pledges on a per mile basis. Contributions to the walkers are then collected and sent to Church World Service, which manages relief and development work in the United States and abroad. The CROP Walk is held in the Spring.

The Coffee Project:

Coffee is the second most heavily traded commodity in the world, superseded only by petroleum. But most coffee profits are divided by importers and exporters, processors, marketers, advertisers, and transporters, leaving only a small share of revenue for coffee farmers who live primarily in developing nations. Our Savior's purchases and sells coffee through a fair-trade market, which acquires the product directly from the farmers and guarantees them a fair and generous price for their product regardless of market fluctuations. This fairly-traded coffee is available for public sale in the church office. Drink a cup of justice! Buy your coffee at church.

Bread for the World:

BFW is a national Christian citizens' group whose goal is to end hunger in God's world wherever it is found, be it international or domestic. Bread For the World works on the public policy side of the solution which has a dramatic impact. Local meetings, which include members from Our Savior's, are held every second Thursday at First Lutheran Church, downtown Sioux Falls. The meetings are open to the public.

The Alternative Gift Market:

Our Savior's participates in an ecumenical city-wide gift market every year prior to the Christmas holiday. Each church that is represented "sells" an alternative gift to Christmas shoppers. These gifts are usually cash donations to a worthy humanitarian cause. This year Our Savior's will provide shoppers the opportunity to contribute to the release of children in bonded slavery in India and to the development of llama farmers in Bolivia. The Gift Market will be held at Asbury United Methodist Church on Sunday, November 24.

St. Dysmas Worship:

Members of Our Savior's host worship for inmates at the Jamison Annex of the South Dakota State Penitentiary on the second Sunday of every month at 11:45 a.m. Participants need to sign up and complete a security clearance form in advance.

Indian Relations Sunday:

This annual event is held on September 29. Karla Abbott, a lay member of Our Savior's who grew up on the Standing Rock Reservation, will preach at all Sunday services. The Oyate Drum and Dance Group, under the direction of Wayne Evans, and Vince Two Eagles, a flute player from Wagner, S.D., will provide dance and music at the services. Adult education will feature a Native American speaker and Sunday School children will hear spiritual stories from an Indian elder. Traditional frybread and dried fruit will be served for Sunday morning coffee.

Global Missions Sunday:

An annual global missions festival is held at Our Savior's every year. This year it will be January 12. For several weeks prior to the festival, various speakers from around the world lead the Sunday Morning Magazine. On the morning of Global Missions Sunday, worship features a procession of international flags and costumes, a guest missionary preacher, and multicultural music. Crafts, storytelling, games and markets with international interest are set-up in Fellowship Hall. An ethnic meal is served at noon.

Partnership with Justa Paz:

A small group of youth and adults from Our Savior's manage a partnership between our congregation and a non-profit peace organization in Colombia, South America. The partner's name is Justa Paz, which means "a just peace." Its purpose is to teach non-violence and assist young people in avoiding forced conscription into Colombian military organizations. Our Savior's provides support for Justa Paz by hosting Colombian guests in the United States, educating Americans about the civil war and human rights abuses in Colombia, organizing advocacy efforts with congressional representatives to change foreign policies with Colombia, conducting pen pal campaigns between youth in the U.S. and Colombia, and more.

Missionary Sponsorship:

Our Savior's provides funding and moral support to Carrie Grev, Lutheran missionary to Hong Kong. We also provide support to missionary Rev. Rudi Blumke in Siberia.

Habitat for Humanity:

Several members of Our Savior's participate in the efforts of Habitat for Humanity, a partner organization of our congregation whose goal is to eliminate sub-standard housing and homelessness through partnerships with God's people in need. Using volunteer labor and donated funds and materials, Habitat builds and renovates simple, decent houses and sells them to low-income families with no profit or interest added. Interested individuals work on supervised construction activities on Saturday mornings. Master Builders, who are retired men and women who are trained by a construction manager, work on Wednesdays and Fridays. Floyd Prouty of Our Savior's coordinates the Master Builders program.

Congregational Service Groups:

In addition to providing service in the larger community, many volunteers provide service at church.

Monthly Serving Groups:

Every member of Our Savior's is assigned to a monthly serving group. When it is your month to serve, you are called to assist with tasks such as baking cakes for funerals, working receptions for weddings, assisting with set-up, serving, or clean-up for congregational meals and coffee hours, serving as name tag hosts on the first Sunday of the month, and working as greeters at the doors for Sunday worship.

Additional Opportunities to Serve:

People can connect with others in a myriad of serving functions besides the monthly serving groups. Some small groups that organize around service include: ushers, nursery workers, communion servers, offering counters, lectors, bulletin stuffers, mailing crews, television ministry teams, parish cruiser drivers, hospital ministry visitors, Elizabeth ministry mentors to new mothers, outreach callers who follow-up with Sunday visitors, and Dinner at Your Door volunteers, who cook and deliver meals to folks newly released from the hospital. If you have

a few hours to share your gifts of time and talent, the church staff will help you find a meaningful service project.

We hope you will join us! Come to Our Savior's to worship, to learn, to sing, to care, to belong, and to serve. We are the "church with a heart" and our hearts are open to you!