

ANCHOR NEWS

Springfield Lutheran Church, ELCA, Newsletter

January 2016

Post Scripts

By Pastor Erik Post—Some tongue-in-cheek wisdom about the New Year from a famous American author:

"New Year's Day now is the accepted time to make your regular annual good resolutions. Next week you can begin paving hell with them as usual." -- Mark Twain

...Mark Twain's observation here is appropriate, to a certain degree. I don't claim to pass along any similar "wisdom" for New Year's, but here's what works for me at New Year's, *and during the year*, when also I assess the past, and plan for the future. "Doing so" throughout the year provides direction. I don't get too worried about making or breaking "resolutions" in some limited time frame.

First, on my birthday, in October, I have some reflection time. I spend some time thinking about the past year, and the new year that I hope that God will give me. On my baptismal birthday, in January, I do the same.

In addition to those days, I started my time with you here at Springfield Lutheran in September 2003. So, each year, I do some assessing and planning in terms of my ministry goals and challenges. I do the same in November for the day of my ordination (in 1986), for a serious, particular examination of the vows I took on that day 30 years ago. And, Mary and I do the some of the same contemplations about our life together in July for our wedding/anniversary date (in 1988). These remembrance times are usually accompanied with prayers of thanksgiving, some sobering moments, plenty of laughter, and appropriate celebratory beverages. Cheers! This approach works for me.

So as we begin our 2016 together as God's people at Springfield Lutheran, we will take a look back, and yet we will look forward confidently to plan for the future that God has for us. We will assess our work *regularly* in 2016, where God leads. No doubt there will be thanksgivings and sobering moments; I'm counting on plenty of laughter and, well, appropriate beverages for all. Cheers! A Happy and Blessed New Year to all. Here is another quote to ponder:

"I wish it need not have happened in my time," said Frodo. "So do I," said Gandalf, "and so do all who live to see such times. But that is not for them to decide. All we have to decide is what to do with the time that is given us." — J.R.R. Tolkien, The Fellowship of the Ring

Quote of the Month—

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.

Jeremiah 29:11 (ESV)

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Foster Care Quilt Workshop Schedule:

This vibrant group will be meeting **weekly on Wednesdays**, beginning this month. The sessions run from **9:00 to 11:00 am**.

On the odd weeks (1st and 3rd) we will be meeting to learn a new pattern. On the even weeks (2nd and 4th) we will practicing what we learned the previous week. The 5th week, well that's special...come see!

Michelle Marroquin and Miriam Jones are your contacts. Come, join, help foster kids and learn new quilting techniques along the way.

Book Group

For January, we will be reading No Eye Can See by Jane Kirkpatrick and we will meet at 11:30 am on Wednesday, January 14, at McGrath's.

Contact Darlene Wood for details. She can be reached at darlenewood1.dw@gmail.com.

Meet & Greet Bill Maack

By Michelle Guillory—Your Council Vice President is: Bill Maack! He also runs the “Budget Committee” and our Choir. He thought he'd sneak in the office and do a bit of budget work for the annual meeting...Hah! Nah, he's a good sport. I surprised him with 20 questions and got to know him a little better...now you can, too.

He's currently 60, but 61 is just around the corner. He's married to Terri and father of Katie & Jeff. He's quite pleased to be little Benny's grandpa and looking forward to grandbaby #2. He's never been a pet person, but my little Rei thinks the world of him.

He was born a Lutheran. He was a Baker and baked bread for the Franz bakery. He's currently retired, although Benny keeps him on his toes...as does the church...Dorothy Carlson has pretty much adopted him and if she asks, he'll do it...hence, the choir at Christmas time.

He's a fair cook, although he wasn't allowed near the kitchen during the first half of his marriage...the word used was “forbidden”. He said that for the second half of the marriage he demanded to be allowed to cook. His favorite food genres are seafood and Italian.

Surprisingly, he's not much of a knitter...he raised his eyebrow at that question. But it's a fair question...Brennen can knit if you get it started for him! However, back to Bill, he fishes, camps, hikes, and golfs, and gardens. He couldn't remember the last time he read a book until he remembered an autobiography he got as a gift last year...Sig Hansen's. He enjoyed that. His favorite movie is Disney's animated Robin Hood...excellent taste! His favorite TV show is NCIS...the original, not the spinoffs.

His favorite sport seems to be football as his favorite teams are the Oregon Ducks and Minnesota Vikings. He prefers coffee to tea...didn't even let me get to the question and blurted out “Coffee”. He didn't have a favorite weird thing...I had to come up with a new question...What was his favorite present ever? A Schwinn bike he got for Christmas when he was ten.

Thanks Bill!



LWR Projects

There is a booklet in the office that lists, in detail, all the various projects we can participate in with LWR. You may also choose some to do by yourself. You can also go to www.lwr.org for more ideas and an opportunity for online giving.

Here is a brief list of the standard projects that are always needed:

- School Kits/ Backpacks
- Baby Care Kits
- Personal Care Kits
- Fabric Kits
- Mission Quilts
- Fleece Tied Blankets

There are specific requirements for each item, so be sure to either check out the booklet or the website for that list. All items are needed all year round. All items are greatly appreciated by those who receive them.

Thank you for joining with us in contributing to the greater world in need.

www.lwr.org

Lutheran World Relief
700 Light Street
Baltimore, MD 21230

The Church's Wish List

By Michelle Guillory—Last month I came up with a Church Christmas List...and the verbal response I got back was positive, so we thought it should be run again, perhaps quarterly. If we each stick one on our fridges, maybe we'll think of the Church to bring something in. Since we are past Christmas, it's been redubbed the Wish List. I imagine it's applicable at any church or charity:

- White Copy paper (20lb. 8.5 x 11") There's a lovely purple and white case over at Costco...or if you have a case at home, bring a ream.
- Colored paper (20lb, 8.5 x 11") Any color is good...and we don't need a ton, but some is good.
- Postage stamps...we're always mailing things out and just as often we are running out of stamps.
- Post-its in a variety of bold colors...3 x 3" is the most used size.
- Large paper clips...they get used more than the small.
- Binder clips small and medium...again, not a lot.
- Batteries...in all sizes. Did you know our electric paper towel dispensers use D-cell batteries, we have a variety of wall clocks, there's the remote for the projector, and remotes for the ceiling fans. We don't use a lot, but when we need them, we seem to scramble.
- Communion wine...Talk to Pastor Erik or Donna Gieseke about this. We currently use Manischewitz, but we are contemplating switching to regular red wines...this will have to go through council before we get fancy (let them know your opinion), but we do go through a fair bit of Manischewitz as it is.
- LED fluorescent tubes for our ceiling lights...Connect with Dick Allely for details we'd like to retrofit existing lights to the new LED bulbs and he knows which ones we're getting. Doing this will save money on our electric bills. It might be that we collect a special offering or all meet at the hardware store. We're still early in this project.
- The carpets in the gym need cleaning...we don't necessarily need someone to pay for a new machine, but we were thinking of a work party in January with folks who own a machine...hint, hint.
- Here's an easy one...toilet paper! Bring a individually wrapped roll or two...each roll has to be wrapped, though.
- Kleenex is another one...if everyone brought a box, we'd not have to buy so many.
- Hand Sanitizer...it's flu season, folks.
- Paper towels...we like the "select-a-size" as there's less waste.
- Garbage bags...32 gallon for the kitchen and the tiny ones for the sanctuary and bathrooms.
- Dish soap...blue Dawn is what we use.
- Windex, Lysol, Bleach, etc. Again, we use these fairly regularly. Talk to Karen Klabo if you want to bring something in large quantities...She's our Queen of Clean and would likely be happy to let you know what she uses.

Another thing to consider is that if you do tax write-offs, bring your receipt and I will type up a letter for your tax preparer to acknowledge your donation.



Epiphany

By Pastor Erik—"On the twelfth day of Christmas..." that sometimes annoying carol was sung very well by the Festival Singers when they treated us at the December 16 concert here at Springfield Lutheran. I bring this up because the "12th" day is the day of Epiphany, which is January 6. In 2016, it lands on a Wednesday, so our evening service at 6:45 p.m. will highlight that festival day. So will the Sunday before and after in their own ways...

As with Christmas, Epiphany is not only a "day", but also a season. This year it is a short season lasting for four weeks of Sundays, finishing with Transfiguration Sunday the first Sunday in February.

Then comes Ash Wednesday and Lent; but first about Epiphany. It has been celebrated (and often ignored) by some in the church, but we keep it in front of us since we are part of the *whole church* worldwide; the Orthodox churches consider it equally as important, or more so, than Christmas. Why is that?

Among many reasons, let's consider this: "Epiphany" means "manifestation", or a "revealing" of the Christ Child to the visiting Magi (like we sing about in "The First Noel" and "We Three Kings"). Yes, the shepherds got to the manger first; yet the wonderful idea behind this is, of course, that Jesus' first "official" guests were from somewhere other than his hometown and country (read Matthew 2 for the whole account). So during this season we honor and pray for our Lord's manifestation as an adult, too, with his ministry to non-Jews. Which is Good News ("of great joy") since that includes yours truly and all the "Gentiles" who were, and continue to be, "adopted" into God's centuries-old "manifestation" of Jesus' grace.

We are told to continue in that "epiphan-izing" (yes, I made-up that word) by going into whole world and baptizing in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit (see Matthew 28). For those who think Epiphany is some sort of human-made, unnecessary distraction, it's actually very biblical in its origin and practice, for thousands of years... I see it also as a way to provide some "spark" for what can be a dreary, after-Christmas January time!

Here are some thoughts from Luther to guide our own walk through the season of Epiphany: "Let us then observe how these Wise Men took no offense at the mean estate of the Babe and his parents, that we also may not be offended at the mean estate of our neighbor, but rather see Christ in him, since the Kingdom of Christ is to be found among the lowly and the despised in persecution, misery, and the holy cross." --Martin Luther's Christmas Book

There is much more to learn and say about all this, so resolve this New Year and "come and see" what God's *ongoing* manifestation looks like at Springfield Lutheran.

Monday Night Bible Study

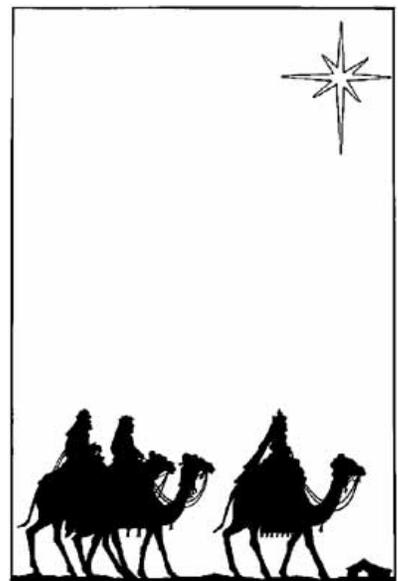
Most Monday nights throughout the school year you can find Pastor Erik and friends studying the Bible. Keep an eye on the church calendar for details. This meeting begins at 6:30 pm and meets in the East Wing.

The upcoming study topics can be found on page 7 of this newsletter...and in future newsletters as well. All are welcome to attend.

Midweek Worship

Again, most Wednesdays throughout the school year you can attend a midweek worship service with Holy Communion at 6:45 pm in the Sanctuary.

Keep in mind that there are some weeks throughout the year where there is no Midweek Worship and those dates will be posted in the church calendars in the Monthly Newsletter, Weekly e-Anchor, and in the Sunday Bulletin.



Your Council Members for 2015:

President:
Linda Loomis

Vice President:
Bill Maack

Secretary:
Rita Grimes

Treasurer:
Gail Rogers

Budget:
Bill Maack

Financial Secretary
Linda Heikkila

Property/Maintenance:
Ray Miller

Worship Committee:
Kevin Heikkila

Stewardship:
Katie Yow

Hospitality:
Alicia Fisher

Social Concerns/
Outreach:
Susan Squire

Nominations are available/open for the 2016 Church Council. Contact Linda Loomis if you'd like to serve or to nominate anyone for a 3-year position. Positions will be elected during our Annual Meeting on January 31.



President's Corner

Your Church Council met at Coburg Pizza for their December meeting. I was not able to be their due to hurting myself, so Pastor Erik headed the meeting.

The Council went over the proposed budget for 2016, some corrections were made and this will be out with committee reports soon.

The Annual Congregation Meeting will be held **January 31st** after the second service.

We have openings on our Church Council for 2016. If you are interested, please call me. Meetings are once a month and it is mandatory that all attend to do the work of our Church.

Pastor and Mary will be away from the church for a few days in January. They will be gone January 21-25. Contact the church office with any concerns.

Social Concerns reported that there were 30 names on the giving tree and all were taken. Social concerns also was given \$500 from Thrivent Financial for supplementing the Giving Tree gifts we give to the local schools. For the Operation Christmas Child, forty shoe boxes were filled. For the November Veterans' Day breakfast, there were approximately 100 people served. All in all, a lot of success in a six-week period.

Your Treasurer reported that all bills were up to date, and she would like to thank all who gave above and beyond. What a great way to end the year! Your Church Council would like to remind the congregation that SLC needs \$12,500 a month to keep up with the bills, this does not include miscellaneous expenses.

As a tithing note, giving was down in January/February/March and then bounced back and recovered from April on. Let's start 2016 with giving a little more consistently. Regardless, thank you for all you give as it helps our ministry.

Your council wishes you all a very happy New Year!

Linda Loomis
President
541-746-0869

JANUARY 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 New Year's Day Office Closed 12 noon AA 12:30 Nar-Anon	2 12:30 AA
3 Christmas 2	4 Office Closed 12 noon AA 6:30 Bible Study	5 9:00 Quilting 9:00 Tai Chi 12 noon AA 5:30 NA	6 9:00 FC Quilting 9:30 HS Cooking 12 noon AA 12:30 Nar Anon 3:30 Sr. Circle Yoga 5:30 AA 6:45 Mid-Wk Worship	7 9:30 HS Cooking 12 noon AA	8 12 noon AA 12:30 Nar-Anon	9 12:30 AA
10 Baptism of Jesus/ Epiphany 1	11 Office Closed 12 noon AA 1:30 SLCW @ Church 6:30 Bible Study	12 9:00 Quilting 9:00 Tai Chi 12 noon AA 5:30 NA	13 9:00 FC Quilting 9:30 HS Cooking 12 noon AA 12:30 Nar Anon 3:30 Sr. Circle Yoga 5:30 AA 6:45 Mid-Wk Worship	14 9:30 HS Cooking 11:30 Book Group @McGrath's 12 noon AA	15 12 noon AA 12:30 Nar-Anon	16 12:30 AA
17 Epiphany 2 11:05 Council	18 MLK Day Office Closed 12 noon AA	19 9:00 Quilting NO Tai Chi Today 12 noon AA 5:30 NA	20 9:00 FC Quilting 9:30 HS Cooking 12 noon AA 12:30 Nar Anon 3:30 Sr. Circle Yoga 5:30 AA 6:45 Mid-Wk Worship	21 9:30 HS Cooking 12 noon AA Pastor Out of Office	22 12 noon AA 12:30 Nar-Anon Pastor Out of Office	23 12:30 AA Sons of Norway Lutefisk Dinner
24/31 01/24 Epiphany 3 January 24 is the Sons of Norway Lutefisk Dinner 01/31 Epiphany 4 January 31 is the Annual Congregation Meeting with Finger Food Potluck	25 Office Closed 12 noon AA 6:30 Bible Study	26 9:00 Quilting 9:00 Tai Chi 12 noon AA 1:15 Wise Guys 5:30 NA	27 9:00 FC Quilting 9:30 HS Cooking 12 noon AA 12:30 Nar Anon 3:30 Sr. Circle Yoga 5:30 AA 6:45 Mid-Wk Worship	28 9:30 HS Cooking 12 noon AA 1:30 Fringe Benefits @Ricksons' 7:00 MCCB		

Bulletin Board

In the main hall by the church office, is a bulletin board that is for everyone. It's been titled Our Church—Our Community—Our World.

It is for news and events happening around our church, around Springfield, around Lane County, and around Oregon, and around the US, and around the World.

Not everything is applicable, but most things are. The grandson doing well in sports (our church), another church bazaar (our community), various volunteer opportunities (our community/our world), the latest newsletters from a variety of organizations (our community/our world).

Our goal is to share happenings, not to indoctrinate or recruit for something that is unrelated to the church. The big 'no' is secular politics and activism. There can be news of a meeting, but no views or opinions. We understand that politics and activism impact our church, our community, and our world; but this board is too small a forum for such a task.

Should you like something to go up, contact the church office and we will put it up if applicable.



Our Church—Our Community —Our World—

- **Monday Night Bible Study**—January 4, Luke 4-6; January 11, Luke 7-9:30; January 18, No Bible Study (MLK Day); January 25, Luke 9:37-10:42; February 1, Luke 11-13; February 8, Luke 14-15. Ash Wednesday is early this year (February 10) and that ends Monday Night Bible Study for Lent. Monday Night Bible Study begins again April 4.
- **Women's Circle**—The SLCW next meets at the church on **January 11**, beginning at 1:30 pm. Contact Miriam Jones with questions.
- **Pastor Out of Office**—Pastor Erik is going to see Sam's graduation from Basic Training in Chicago, so he'll not be here January 21-25. Linda Mueller will be substituting for him. Contact the church office with your needs and Michelle will get you connected.
- **Lutefisk**—**January 23 & 24** is the Sons of Norway Lutefisk event...you'd best get your tickets early.
- **Wise Guys**—This group is now meeting at Hole in the Wall BBQ. The next meeting is in **January 26**.
- **ANNUAL MEETING**—Join us **January 31**, for our annual meeting, which takes place after the 10:00 service. There is a finger food potluck preceding the meeting, so bring a napkin.
- **Yoga**—Kate Morgan, our chair yoga instructor for the Wednesday afternoon Senior Circle Yoga class, is wanting to start a mat yoga class for seniors...any senior who is capable of freely getting up from and down to the floor is welcome to attend this free class. A yoga mat is required for safety and stability. Bring a water bottle and a small blanket. The class is scheduled to begin in February and will be held in the gym at 2:00 pm on Wednesdays (prior to the 3:30 chair class).
- **February 7** is the **Superbowl**...Go Seahawks!...Whew! Wild Card! So, there's a chance...maybe...go team?...Well, anybody but the Patriots!
- **February 28** is the Luther House **Lutherfest Beer and Cheese Benefit**...See poster on the big bulletin board for details.



Beginning of Year Business

By Michelle Guillory—Tadaa! 2016 is here! Are you ready? Too late, it's here. This is some of what's coming.

- The annual end-of-year giving statements will be ready before the end of January in anticipation of tax preparation season...hurrah, fun, whoopee...
- Speaking of the Annual Meeting earlier in the newsletter, if you're on Council, Michelle G needs your annual reports, as soon as you can, please. It takes a fair bit of time for the Annual Reports to be put together.

We, the staff, hope your 2016 is full of joy, hope, peace, and gratitude.



Meditation—"Mary's Baby Shower" by Rev. Robb McCoy, "The Fat Pastor" (Two Rivers United Methodist Church, Rock Island, Illinois).

Upon this verse, much folk theology has been built: Matthew 2:11 – “On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.”

The story of the wise men, or magi, or astrologers, coming to visit Mary is an important part of our cultural understanding of Jesus' birth... There isn't really a reason to believe there were three of them. There were three different gifts, but no where does it number the men... Many legends, song, and art has been built around these mysterious men with their gifts. Almost all of it is speculation. The traditional interpretation of the gifts goes something like this:

Gold: A gift for royalty, acknowledging that Jesus was of a Royal line. Frankincense: An expensive incense that was burned as a part of worship in The Temple. This signifies Jesus' divinity. Myrrh: An expensive oil used for perfume. According to this explanation, myrrh was most commonly used among wealthy Jews as an anointing oil for the dead. Thus, the myrrh is seen as a foreshadowing of Jesus' death and a reminder of his mortality.

To a modern reader, the gifts of the Magi seem strange and impractical. I feel it much more likely that these gifts were extremely practical. Notice that Matthew says that the magi “Saw the child with Mary his mother, and then knelt down...” These gifts might have saved Mary, and indirectly Jesus himself.

We would be good to take note that Mary's “Baby Shower” was an act of valuing the life of a woman. This Epiphany, my church is remembering the gifts of the Magi by having a “Baby Shower for Mary.” The youth of our church are baking cookies, brownies, and muffins. We are putting up cheesy paper decorations, and playing a few silly baby games. All have been invited to bring a gift in honor of Mary. People will bring diapers, onesies, blankets, socks, lotions, shampoos, and more. All of the gifts will be brought to the Crisis Pregnancy Center, which helps women in need. They operate a clothes closet for infants, and are in constant need of the expensive needs of a newborn.

This small act of mercy might help a mother care for her child. I'm hoping that in time, we can do more than give gifts to the Center. I'm hoping that we can develop a relationship with them, providing mentors, support, and classes. This is just a first step toward helping children and mothers in our area.

Contact Us

If you need the church, the Pastor, the Secretary, prayer, comfort, or guidance; please contact us at:

Springfield Lutheran Church, ELCA

1542 I Street
Springfield, OR 97477
(541) 746-2403

Office Hours: Closed Mondays & National Holidays.
Open Tuesday-Friday, from 10:00am to 1:00pm.

SLCAncor@gmail.com

Visit us on the web at
www.springfieldlutheran.org