
CONNECTION

Our Savior Lutheran Church

Mesquite, TX

August 2019

HAPPY 50TH BIRTHDAY, OUR SAVIOR!

For 50 years Our Savior Lutheran Church has been in ministry to Mesquite and surrounding communities ... and there must be at least 50 ways to celebrate! As we get closer to our September 15th recognition Sunday, we will list a few of those ways. But for now, let's start with just two.

1) THE EBENEZER THANKOFFERING

The What??? Our Christmas newsletter previewed this marvelous opportunity to connect the 50 years of Our Savior with every year of your life ... through the waters of Baptism! (We've enclosed that newsletter article from last December to familiarize you with the history of 'Ebenezer' through the Old Testament Thanksgiving Stone and the Ebenezer Scrooge "Christmas Story" by Charles Dickens.) We'd like to make our 50th Anniversary a Christmas Story of Giving—for what is **thanksgiving** for 50th Years of God's Blessing without **giving** to share that blessing with others?

Here's how it works:

Starting in September, we will highlight the Baptism birthdays of each Our Savior member. All September baptism birthdays will be celebrated with a reception after each service on the last Sunday of the month—and every month until September 2020. (That means everyone needs to update our Baptismal Birthday records by finding the exact date of your baptism! In case you've forgotten or can't find your baptism certificate, we'll help you in the search—whether by phone call, letter, genealogical search, or leaping tall buildings in a single bound!) Since every year of your life has been touched by God's grace through your Baptism, we'll ask you to respond with thanksgiving by giving a dollar for each year you were baptized. (I was baptized on September 14, 1952, so I will give at least \$67 this September as an offering of gratitude for God's calling me his very own child through baptismal waters.) You will be mailed a special offering envelope for the Ebenezer Thank offering, as we recognize all baptismal birthdays for each month on the last Sunday of that month. Children as well as adults will be invited to participate.

What if you were baptized recently ... say five years ago ... would you only owe \$5? Yes, \$5 would be all you need to give ... unless you would like to contribute \$50 instead to mark Our

Savior's 50th! You may choose the lesser—or the greater—amount between your baptism anniversary and Our Savior's anniversary. Plus, you will be given a choice of sending your offering to ELCA World Hunger, Lutheran Disaster Relief, or Lutheran World Relief. After 12 months of our Ebenezer Thankoffering, we'll tally up the totals and share the results of sharing God's blessings to us with others. Indeed, thanksgiving and giving go together as we celebrate our 50th anniversary!



2) 50 DAYS FOR 50 YEARS

July 28th marked the 50 day countdown to our 50th Anniversary Celebration. As each day represents one year of Our Savior's existence, we will mark those years on white butcher paper on the official Countdown Tables. Each Sunday will mark more years until we make it to 2019! You are invited to write your memories for each progressive year to tell more than just the bare **history** of Our Savior—we'll tell the personal **stories** that make Our Savior Lutheran Church a living example of God's grace at work in 1969 ... and in 2019! (There will be markers for you to add your remembrances, and you may even wish to add a photo or two of life together at Our Savior!)

As we keep counting down to 50 years, let's count the many ways to celebrate and share the unfailing love of God in Jesus Christ. For 50 years past and 50 more to come, you can count on that love. It's what makes Our Savior, a place of faith, hope, and love for Mesquite, Texas ... and for our world!

This reprint from our Christmas letter is to remind you of the rich biblical meaning of Ebenezer and encourage you to share in an abundant thankoffering for our 50th anniversary celebration. Merry Christmas in August!



The Rehabilitation of Ebenezer

One of the oddest names in the English language is also one of its most famous. The name “Ebenezer” dominates the Christmas landscape right alongside Santa, Rudolph, and Frosty. But where did Ebenezer come from? What does it mean? And why did Charles Dickens grab this obscure word from a forgotten Old Testament tale to spin one of literature’s greatest redemption stories?

Ebenezer is the contraction of two Hebrew words meaning “stone of help”. The Ebenezer was a monument stone raised in thanksgiving by the prophet Samuel on the site of Israel’s victory over the Philistines. At its consecration, Samuel exclaimed in gratitude: “The Lord has helped us all the way!” It became a tribute of thanksgiving for God’s gracious redemption.

One can only guess why Dickens used the name “Ebenezer” for his scroogiest, stingiest, snarliest character; but today, Ebenezer Scrooge symbolizes redemptive reclamation. Once a scheming, selfish skinflint, Scrooge was rehabilitated by God’s grace.

Perhaps Ebenezer is a universal name for all who need redemption this Christmas. Perhaps Dickens’ “A Christmas Carol” is even about us! The miracle of redemption is not limited to Victorian England, is it? After all, you and I claim the Ebenezer Scrooge story every time we sing: “I once was lost, but now am found ... was blind, but now I see.” Perhaps the story of God’s amazing, redemptive grace could be retold this Christmas for our broken world, our divided nation, and our soulless culture.

In fact, the Ebenezer Scrooge Story could well be the story of Our Savior Lutheran Church in 2019. You see, 2019 marks the 50th Anniversary of our congregation. What better time to “raise our Ebenezer” in thanksgiving for God’s redemptive grace to shout aloud with Samuel: “The Lord has helped us all the way!” We’ll explore ways to do just that throughout 2019 with an Ebenezer Thank Offering. But more about that later. For now, it’s Christmas!

Maybe we can make this Christmas a redemptive moment of God’s grace by claiming the Ebenezer story for ourselves. Maybe we can wake up Christmas morning and discover that a 7-year-old Guatemalan girl didn’t die for lack of water, that a tiny Yemeni baby didn’t starve for lack of nutrition, and that a Bethlehem baby’s first breath might breathe new life into all the world’s Tiny Tims. Maybe all rehabilitated Ebenezers might join us in opening our windows to the world in welcoming the stranger, in ending the war, and in caring for this fragile creation. Then God’s redeeming grace might give all of us the joy of shouting with the angels: “Glory to God in the highest and peace to all people on earth” and “the Lord is with us all the way!”

“A Christmas Carol” will become our story and Ebenezer will become our name too. And God will hoist us up on his shoulders alongside all God’s Tiny Tims, so that we together might joyfully shout,

“Merry Christmas”

and

“God bless us, everyone,”





Back-to-School Backpacks—August 18th

A new school year signals a fresh start, a new beginning of learning and growth. New teachers, new classrooms, new friends... new backpacks! Backpacks symbolize the excitement and energy of back-to-school, so we're having a "Blessing of the Backpacks" in worship, August 19th. Kids, bring your backpacks before your first day of school. We'll bring them forward for the children's dialog and say a prayer of blessing on them—and you! May God bless teachers and students alike—and their backpacks—as school begins anew.

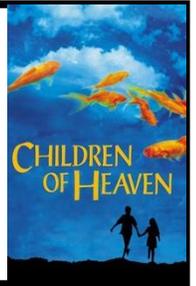
Celebrating and Supporting our Synod's Prison Ministry

AUGUST 4, 8:30 & 11:00AM

A large group of people in our country do not have a voice. They are out of sight and usually out of mind because they're home is a prison cell. Dan Lund is a Synodically Authorized Worship Leader who gives voice to the voiceless... and what a voice he has! Of course, we have under our own roof the most dedicated prison minister since the Apostle Paul in our own Reverend Victor Hunter. These two faithful servants will help us in morning worship on August 4th to lift up the lowly and to remember the forgotten. Dan Lund will deliver an unforgettable sermon, and we will deliver a noisy offering to support Dan's "Church of the Damascus Road" prison ministry. We will also lift up Victor and Barbara Hunter for the unfailing work that they do—even through Victor's 5 broken ribs, broken foot, and cracked vertebrae. That didn't stop Victor and nothing must stop us from giving a voice to the voiceless and proclaiming freedom in Christ to those who are bound in the brokenness of prison life.

2019 Summer Movie Marathon

Marathon events are big news makers... whether far away like the Boston Marathon or closer to home like the Cowtown Marathon. But the marathon that matters for this summer is a movie marathon of 3 stories of runners whose every step was a race of courage, determination, and faith. Our last movie features a runner from Iran—of all places. "Children of Heaven" will feature our August "Flicks for Faith." It will premier August 15th at 7pm with a light potluck supper at 6:30pm. If you wish to attend, you must sign up. The times are set. Get on your racing shoes. To the starting blocks. Ready. Set. Go... to Our Savior's Summer Movie Marathon.



Choir Resumes....

Wednesday, August 28th at 7pm



And if you're a present or future member of the choir, please join the group on *Sunday, August 11th* at Chip & Lorretta Cannon's home after morning services. Chip will barbeque and all you need do is bring yourself and a side dish to compliment our potluck party.

Nancy's Health Notes

The Safety Committee is working to have an AED, CPR and FIRST AID available to OSL. Having easy access to these areas can make the difference in life and death.

We will have not only the equipment but we will also provide the training in the proper use and care of the equipment.

The total cost for the equipment is a little over \$1000 and a portion of that has already been raised. To help defray this cost we will be having a bake sale on August 18th. Since that is the day for the blessings of the backpacks, there should be plenty of children who are ready to persuade their parents to buy baked goodies.

Any donations of cookies, breads, cakes, pies or other baked goods will be GREATLY appreciated. If anyone wishes to make a monetary donation instead, please label it as AED and place it in the offering plate or you can give it to any of the Safety Committee members.

Education for all of our church family is another vital goal for the committee. Some of the areas coming up this fall include, CPR certification, proper use of the AED, First Aid, Fire Safety, Tornado Drills, and Active Shooter Drills. Many individuals have been participants in these activities at work. There will be some classes that have a fee with them due to the necessary supplies and certification.

How sad that we have become a society that must live with these concerns.

Nancy Wilson, RN, FCN

AUGUST

BIRTHDAYS

Date	Name
7	Austin Morton
13	Jon Cook
14	Tanner Faaborg
	Randy Peterson
16	Christine Hocker
17	Diana Bruneau
	Renata del-Busto
19	Brandi Dannen
	Sophie DeShazo
	Jake Lippincott
	George Morton
20	Mark Fretheim
	Jeremy Richardson
	Serenity Tran
21	Kay Crawford
23	Kaethe Combs
	Alice Hofer
	Pauline Hutchinson
	Tristan Tran
	Marie Villegas
24	Teresa Hall
25	Phoenix Nawroki
26	Ashton Brockman
27	Shay Semmler
31	Richard Mastin
	John Schelter
	Kathryn Utoska



BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS

Date	Name
1	Christina Gipson
	Jasmine Gipson
4	Chuck Philbrick
7	Garrison Jacobs
	Vanessa Wood
9	Sonja Conoly
12	Cynthia Lubben
24	Robert Hutchinson
28	Sarah Whitman
31	Laura Stidd

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Date		Years
10	Michael & Sonja Conoly	28
14	Lou & Marie Mazza	43
25	Mark & Carol Murray	40



WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

	8/11-8/25		9/1-9/15	
	8:30	11:00	8:30	11:00
Assisting Minister	Lois Schelter	Chip Cannon	Lois Schelter	Randy Peterson
Greeter	Paul Cross	Jerry Combs	Jackie Howk	Eleanor Adix
	Karen Staton	Kaethe Combs	Darren Mann	Edda Farrell
Ushers	Mark Hall	Dennis Chubbs	Thane Katz	James Bartosh
	Bonnie Johnston	Matt Chubbs	Kris Semmler	Richard Mastin
Reader	Paul Cross	Richard Mastin	Bonnie Johnston	Debbie Zimmermann
Communion	Carol Murray	Richard Mastin	Michael Lubben	Debbie Zimmermann
Assistants	Dave Shafer	Shari Murphy	Cynthia Lubben	Jon Cook

ACOLYTES

	Aug. 4	Aug. 11	Aug. 18	Aug. 25	Sept. 1	Sept. 8
8:30am	Marie V.	Yiyaine F.	Marie V.	Yiyaine F.	Marie V.	Yiyaine F.
	Alicia V.	Haidyn J.	Alicia V.	Haidyn J.	Alicia V.	Haidyn J.
11:00	Joshua E.	Jeremy R.	Olivia R.	Joshua E.	Jeremy R.	Olivia R.
	Jonathan E.	Madison R.	Caroline F.	Jonathan E.	Madison R.	Caroline F.

CONNECTION

Our Savior Lutheran Church

411 North Town East Blvd.

Mesquite TX 75150

Office: 972-226-0510

Fax: 972-226-0722

www.oslmesquite.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Sunday Worship—8:30am, 11:00am & 5:30pm

Sunday School—9:45am

Pastor—John Schelter

Non-Profit Org

U.S. Postage Paid

Mesquite Texas

Permit #98

COUNCIL CORNER – AUGUST 2019

The 50th Anniversary party is just around the corner. I hope everyone has set aside September 15 for the celebration. Please remember that we will only be having a single service at 10:00 on the 15th, to be followed by lunch in gym. Formal invitations will be going out soon. Celebrities are lining up to join us. So far, the bishop and mayor of mesquite (possibly some of the council) are confirmed. Decoration planning is underway. The committee will make a final decision on the food and caterer this week. Everything will be provided for the lunch, so you do not need to bring anything but yourselves. We do need a couple of volunteers to help serve so contact me if you would like to assist. Lastly, if you have addresses of former members that you would like to invite, please get them to the church office as soon as possible so that we can include them in the mailing.

If you go out back of the church, you will notice that the fencing for the expansion of the community garden has been erected, and that the ground has been tilled in anticipation of having additional plots and row crops to be planted. If you have an interest in having a plot please contact Julie Williams. There is still some work to do to get ready and being involved early will be appreciated. I would like to express my appreciation to everyone that assisted in the fence building, gardeners, soccer team parents, Saturday basketball players and especially Robert Holmes for getting the grass removed and the area tilled up.

The Safety and Security Committee has been working hard. They are planning on having a bake sale on August 18 to raise the additional funds that we need to purchase an AED (automated electronic defibrillator) unit to place in the church. If anyone wants to bring items for the sale, contact Dennis Chubbs. The committee is also making arrangements to provide a First Aid/CPR/AED/Emergency Awareness training session at the church on Saturday this fall. The training will be available to everyone in the congregation and I encourage everyone to participate. Costs are minimal for the course, which last approximately 5 hours. More details will be coming.

Let's get ready to party.



August 2019

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p>1</p> <p>Each Sunday 8:30am Worship Service 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship Service 5:30pm Worship Service</p>				<p>1</p> <p>9:30am Mother's Day Out</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p> <p>9:00am Men's Basketball</p>
<p>4</p> <p>Prison Ministry Sunday</p>	<p>5</p> <p>7:00pm Lesson Study</p>	<p>6</p> <p>9:30am Mother's Day Out</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p> <p>9:30am Mother's Day Out</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p> <p>9:00am Men's Basketball <i>Boy Scouts Garage Sale</i></p>
<p>11</p> <p>12:30pm Council Meeting</p>	<p>12</p> <p>7:00pm Lesson Study</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p> <p>6:30pm Potluck Supper 7:00pm Movie— <i>Children of Heaven</i></p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p> <p>9:00am Men's Basketball</p>
<p>18</p> <p>Blessing of the Backpacks</p> <p>Bake Sale</p>	<p>19</p> <p>7:00pm Lesson Study</p>	<p>20</p> <p>9:30am Mother's Day Out</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p> <p>9:30am Mother's Day Out</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p>9:00am Men's Basketball</p>
<p>25</p> <p>12:30pm Nursing Home Service</p>	<p>26</p> <p>7:00pm Lesson Study</p>	<p>27</p> <p>9:30am Mother's Day Out</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p> <p>9:30am Mother's Day Out</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p> <p>9:00am Men's Basketball</p>

