

goodnews

Newsletter from the Church that Gives & Shares, Loves & Cares

Volume 36 Issue 2

www.gsclasvegas.org

702-873-3589

February 2011

Good Samaritan Lutheran Church (Giving - Sharing - Loving - Caring)

Transforming lives and empowering people through Christ's love.



The Lenten Journey Begins March 9th Ash Wednesday

Preparing our hearts to celebrate Christ's victory.

Lent is a period of six weeks which leads up to Holy Week and Easter. It is a great opportunity to take an intentional journey deeper in your faith. To add a spiritual element to your life that will enrich your daily living and prepare you all the more to experience the deep meaning of Holy Week and to celebrate the joy of Easter!!

Ash Wednesday Service and Soup Supper, March 9th

Worship service 6:30pm - Soup Supper 5:30pm

Worship, hymns and disposition of ashes

Opportunities for Lent

Lenten-Social Soup Supper

On Wednesdays 5:30-6:30pm, before Lenten worship, enjoy a *free* meal. Please come and enjoy some great homemade soups, good sides and *great* fellowship!

Would you like to host one of our Lenten Soup Suppers? Maybe you and a friend can host together so no one has to do all the work. We ask that you furnish soup, crackers or bread and drinks for approximately 35 people. If you are interested please sign up in the entry area or call the office 873-3589.



Mid Week Lenten Worship

**Our Lenten services are on
Wednesdays from
6:30pm-7:00pm**

Join your Good Samaritan family for a mid-week pick me up. Our Lenten services take place on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. and are about ½ hour in length.

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What's Happening?

Check out page 10 for our Associate Pastor
Call Committee update.



WORSHIP HOURS

Saturday Worship 6:00pm
 Sunday Worship 8:00; 9:35 & 11:00am
 Sunday School 9:35am & 11:00am
 Nursery care at all services

Office Hours

Monday - Friday 9:00am - 5:00pm
 873-3589 - FAX 873-8437
 Web Page: www.gslclasvegas.org

Church Staff

Pastor Don Lorfing
dlorfing@gslclasvegas.org
 Visitation Minister - Pastor Scott Hove
 Office & Finance Administrator
 Jolene Carlin
office@gslclasvegas.org
 Pre-School Administrator - Miriam Dake
 Organist - Dan Sheeran
 Choir Director - Val Connor
 Children's Choir Director - Lori Hansen
 Contemporary Music Directors
 Chris & Michelle Childers
 Pianist/soundboard - Patrick Panknin
 Family & Youth Minister
 Interims-Tricia & Steve Russell
TrishRussell@cox.net
 Children's Ministry Coordinator
 Jackie Vaughan
 Connections Coordinator - Tricia Russell
 Nursery Coordinator - vacant

Church Council 2011

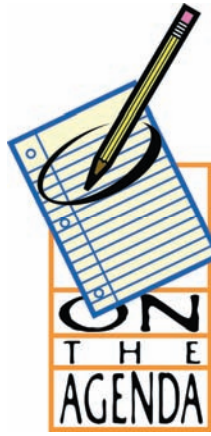
Mary McCrary
 Brian Maley
 Patrick Panknin
 Debra Peterson
 B.J. Willeford
 Paul Whissel
 Doug Cornford
 Cindy Spannhake
 Carl Bates
 Dan Reese
 Jessica Deri
 Joe Killoran - **Treasurer**

Council meetings are open to the congregation

If you are a member of Good Samaritan and have any questions or concerns you would like put on the agenda, please contact the church office a week prior to the meeting.

If you would just like to sit in on a council meeting, they are on the second Monday of each month at 6:30pm.

Important Information Meetings February 12 & 13!!!



Dear friends and family of Good Samaritan. Your council leadership met on January 8th to thoroughly discuss this congregation's potential for expanding our school ministry to a complete elementary school. After looking at the business plan, the financial situation, and talking through the pro's and con's they voted unanimously to recommend to the congregation to proceed with the project. But, now we need to hear from you. In the coming weeks you will be receiving a brochure that will provide lots of detail about the potential project, as well as have the opportunity to attend an information meeting and respond to a questionnaire.

The meetings will be held after each service the weekend of Feb. 12th and 13th. Your leadership really wants your feedback on this project before proceeding. Please reserve an extra 45 minutes in your weekend schedule to attend one of these informational meetings. Child-care will be provided upon request. Contact the church office 873-3589 **prior to February 12th.**

Thank You!

We would like to thank the following council members who have served our congregation with great love and commitment.

**Pam Junge
 B.J. Willeford
 Lyle Jensen
 Brad Benson
 Don Albinato**

Thank you for your service to your Good Samaritan family!

We also want to welcome our new 2011 council members.

**Dan Reese
 Carl Bates
 Jessica Deri
 Paul Whissel
 Cindy Spannhake**


May God bless them in the upcoming year, so that their council experience is a positive one. Please keep your leaders, both council and staff, which are listed to the left, in your prayers as they lead your


February 13 is Girl Scout Sunday!
 Stop by the Girl Scout table after all services to meet our scouts and buy some delicious cookies to take home with you!





Weekly or Monthly Activities

Men's breakfast meets at church the second Saturday of each month at 8am in the Fellowship Hall.

Card Ministry Group every **Wednesday at 10am**-we play 'Hand & Foot' and everyone is invited to join us! 

 Bible study on **Tuesdays at 10am** in the youth room everyone is invited to join us! Also on Sunday's at 9:30am in room #2 of the education building.

Quilting every **Friday from 9am - Noon** in room #1 

Choir practice on Sunday's King's Kids at 10:50am, for ages 2 years through 5th grade in room #2 of the education building; Adult Choir Wednesday's at 6:30pm If you like to sing please join them! 

Bunko Night the **first Thursday of each month at 6:30pm** in the youth room. Everyone is invited to come.

Layette Ministry 10am on the second Saturday of every other month. **March; May; July; Sept; Nov.**

Average Weekly Attendance:	
Average attendance in	
2010.....	356
1st qtr.	369
2nd qtr.....	349
3rd qtr.....	292
4th qts.....	363

NOTICE
Deadline for the **March** newsletter is **February 11th**

Statement of Frequency
The Goodnews is a monthly publication of the Good Samaritan Lutheran Church.

Faith in Action

Did you Know?.... We had 27 families host 88 girls and 3 boys from the University of California Baptist Choir. They helped lead an amazing weekend of worship.



Good Samaritan friends,
Thank you for all of your prayers and cards that were sent to me, Marilyn Podraza, on behalf of my mom, Elvira Oglesby. Elvira passed away at the age of 102. My family and I appreciate all your thoughtfulness.
Marilyn Podraza & family

People

Prayer Requests-please keep the following people in your Prayers:
God's Peace, Strength & Love to:
Family and friends of Elnora Wilkinson; Gail Bates-recovering from cataract surgery; Taylor Welch; Lester Weiss-cancer; Keith Baun; Joyce & Duane Baun; Norm Burrows; Judy Burrows; Shane Burrows; Megan C.; Ingrid; Diane P.-cancer; Lynn D.-health; Carol P.-health; Frank; Jessica; Rob Radz-cancer; Sara & Jim; Duane P.-cancer; Lorainne Hoare-hospice; Jon Boyd-cancer; Sandra Miner; Terry Ferro-cancer; Henry & Brenda-health; Dianne-mercy; Mike & Jess-forgiveness; John-faith; Audrey Bilansky-cont. recovery; Pat Hoekendorff-cancer; Tom Horne; Becky-safe travel; Joyce P.-health; Charles B.-cancer; Dakota Bailey-head injury; Sue; Skip; David; Joe Ortiz & family; Mary Hall; Klatz family; Ricarda; Dorothy-health; Matt & Joan-jobs; Jo Ann Reese; Paul-strength; Sarah Dari; Anne-cancer; Cindy-health; All of our armed forces.

Invite a Friend!
As your new year begins you often want a fresh start or a new direction. Well maybe your friend, relative or neighbor wants the same thing. This is a perfect time to invite someone again, or for the first time, to come to church with you. Be a light for someone and watch their direction change!!



Sponsors

The sponsors appearing in this newsletter help us to defray the cost of printing our newsletter. Please give them your consideration when possible.



February 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Bible study 10am; G.A. 1:30-3pm	2 Cards 10am; G.A. 1:30-3pm Adult Choir 6:30pm-Sanc.	3 G.A. 1:30-3pm Bunko 6:30pm	4 Quilting 9am- 11am Jujitsu 6pm- 8:30pm	5 Comm. 6pm
6 Comm. 8, 9:35 & 11:00am; Sunday School 9:35 & 11:00am; King's Kids practice 10:40; Koreans 1pm- 3pm	7 GA meeting 1:30 -3pm;	8 Bible study 10am; G.A. 1:30-3pm	9 Cards 10am; G.A. 1:30-3pm Adult Choir 6:30pm-Sanc.	10 G.A. 1:30-3pm	11 Quilting 9am- 11am Jujitsu 6pm- 8:30pm	12 Men's breakfast 8am Worship 6pm
13 Worship 8, 9:35 & 11:00am; Sunday School 9:35 & 11:00am; King's Kids practice 10:40; Koreans 1pm- 3pm	14 GA meeting 1:30 -3pm;	15 Bible study 10am; G.A. 1:30-3pm	16 Cards 10am; G.A. 1:30-3pm Adult Choir 6:30pm-Sanc.	17 G.A. 1:30-3pm	18 Quilting 9am- 11am Jujitsu 6pm- 8:30pm	19 Comm. 6pm
20 Comm. 8, 9:35 & 11:00am; Sunday School 9:35 & 11:00am; King's Kids practice 10:40; Koreans 1pm- 3pm	21 Closed Presidents Day	22 Bible study 10am; G.A. 1:30-3pm	23 Cards 10am; G.A. 1:30-3pm Adult Choir 6:30pm-Sanc.	24 G.A. 1:30-3pm	25 Quilting 9am- 11am Jujitsu 6pm- 8:30pm	26 Worship 6pm
27 Worship 8, 9:35 & 11:00am; Sunday School 9:35 & 11:00am; King's Kids practice 10:40; Koreans 1pm- 3pm	28 GA meeting 1:30 -3pm;					

Feb. 12 & 13-Information meetings after each service
Feb. 13-Grand Canyon Music Group all services
Feb. 13-Girl Scout cookie sales
Feb. 20-Tom Eggum Hope 4 Kids International speaking
Feb. 21-President's Day office closed



Dear Friends and Family of Good Samaritan,

One of my favorite authors, Rick Warren who wrote *The Purpose Driven Church* and *The Purpose Driven Life*, uses a wonderful surfing analogy to describe a key element of how a healthy and effective Christian community functions. He writes:

"If you take a surfing class, you will be taught everything you need to know about surfing: how to choose the right equipment, how to use that equipment, how to recognize a 'surfable' wave, and how to ride that wave the right amount of time so you can get off it before you wipeout. You will never be taught "How to Build a Wave" God makes the waves, surfers just ride them."

I really like what he has to say next.

"Our job as church leaders (and as a people of God) like experienced surfers, is to recognize a wave of God's Spirit and ride it. It is not our responsibility to make waves but to recognize how God is working in the world and join Him in that endeavor."

I like this analogy because I believe it has been Good Samaritan's ability to recognize some of these spiritual waves that has helped us grow to this point. We recognized the possibility of merging Good Samaritan and New Hope Lutheran churches together. We were able to ride the wave of relocation and construction that has led us to this wonderful campus we now have and we have many more possibility for ministry and growth. As your pastor and in conjunction with the other leadership of Good Samaritan we have been working hard at trying to develop the insight, patience, faith, skill, and most of all balance to ride these waves as God intended. Sometimes we have done well and at other times we have had some minor wipeouts.

At this time I, as well as your council leadership, believe that off on the horizon we are seeing another rather large God sent wave begin to build. It is the wave that would provide for us the spiritual power we need to expand our *New Hope Christian Academy*. This expansion will in turn allow Good Samaritan to provide more ministry in our community and grow even more successfully into the future.

Now, I could never claim to be a good surfer. Waves are few and far between in Montana where I grew up. And at times even good surfers read the waves incorrectly. So, your leaders want your help in discerning this next big wave. I would ask if you will attend one of our information and feedback meetings to be held next weekend Feb. 12th and 13th after each service? I would also ask that you would fill out one of our feedback forms that will be available immediately after those meetings and for several days afterwards, or talk to me or one of our council members if you cannot attend. ***We want to hear from you.*** We want to give you a chance to get the information accurately, have your questions answered as best we can, and then provide us with your feedback. Keep an eye out for the information brochure that will get this informing process started. They will be in bulletins this weekend and at the church office and in the entry area's. Never hesitate to contact me through email or phone if you have any questions about this or about any number of other subjects. My contact info. is dlorfing@gsclasvegas.org or 873-3589 ext. 4.

I believe God is sending waves of health and growth wherever His people are prepared to ride them. But we need to change our prayer from *"God bless what we are doing"* to *"Lord, help us to do what you are blessing."*

So while you are getting ready to be informed about this upcoming possibility, and to offer your feedback, I would ask that you would also pray about it. Pray that we might continue to be open to God's will and direction for our Good Samaritan Lutheran Church community, that God and all of us love so very much.

Your Fellow Servant in Christ,

Don Lorfing

Lic. #0052042



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Life Just Got Better





FUNNY BONE!!

Diagnose this patient...

The psychology instructor had just finished a lecture on mental health and was giving an oral test.

Speaking specifically about manic depression, she asked, "How would you diagnose a patient who walks back and forth screaming at the top of his lungs one minute, then sits in a chair weeping uncontrollably the next?"

A young man in the rear raised his hand and answered, "A basketball coach?"

February Birthdays

- 1 - Laura Norman, Hannah Chaffin(7)
- 2 - Jerry Connor; Robert Van Der Linda
- 5 - Sharon Buntrock; Nike Russell, Chelsey Kuzyk
- 6 - Sally Bouchard
- 7 - Tyler Sticka(5)
- 9 - Tammy Wight; Peggy Young
- 10 - Walt Frost
- 11 - Steve Soukup
- 12 - Joey Gilbert; Kyle Connor; Dave Tomlinson
- 14 - Linda Fleury; Andrew Gentry
- 16 - Bob DeVries; Lyle Jensen; Tim Norman Doug Seip; Ashley Keaton
- 17 - Erich Petreson
- 18 - Roger Fasting; Cherie Seip
- 19 - Ken Carlin
- 20 - Keith Hall; Jake Putnam(10)
- 21 - Nita Borchardt; Gary Beckman
- 22 - Audrey Bilansky; Eddie Gandy; Brynn Willeford
- 24 - Joe Papez; Lynn Black
- 25 - Andrew Parker; Francesca Bliven(2)
- 26 - Mary Heitschmidt; Jessica Bliven
- 27 - Jessica Deri
- 28 - Richard Stone



Great news...

College student: "Hey, Dad! I've got some great news for you!"

Father: "What, son?"

College student: "Remember that \$500 you promised me if I made the Dean's list?"

Father: "I certainly do!"

College student: "Well, you get to keep it."

Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around. People come into our lives for a reason, a season, or a lifetime. Embrace all equally!

February Anniversaries

- 2 - Lisa & Luis Fletes (6)
- 5 - Rudy & Jami Johnson 39
- 22 - Wes & Kristi Parker 25
- B.J. & Brynn Willeford 19



YOUTH and FAMILY MINISTRIES



FROM THE **YOUTH DIRECTOR**

Hot Church and Confirmation (Sixth grade through Sr. High)

Sunday, all high school and middle school youth begin in worship at 9:35am. Just before the children's message the high school youth go into the youth room for Bible related discussions. The middle school youth go into the education building for Confirmation. Check out our website www.gslclasvegas.org Steve and Tricia Russell are our youth leaders. TrishRussell@cox.net

2011 Brian Head Ski Trip

February 25th (afternoon) - 27th (evening)
Join us for snowboarding, skiing, and fellowship!
Transportation provided by Good Samaritan adults.
\$75 for transportation, hotel, breakfasts and dinners.

You are responsible for providing your lunch and any snacks, lift tickets/rentals or supplies you might need.

Call Trish or Steve Russell at 702-806-1027 for more info.



We have begun our new curriculum. We are learning about how Jesus does great things, how to trust God's plan and why Jesus was born for us. Both teachers and children are enjoying the curriculum and all the hands on activities.

I also want to thank all the parent volunteers that have dedicated time to the Sunday School Ministry. All your help is truly appreciated. Sunday School is at 9:35am and 11am every week. Everyone is welcome ages 3yrs-5th grade. We are always looking for volunteers so please sign up with your child's teacher, they have the sign-up sheets available. If you have any questions or concerns please contact Jackie Vaughan at t_jvaughan@yahoo.com or 702-306-1423.



February 12, Evening

When was the last time you enjoyed a "Date Night?" Take advantage of Parents Night Out!

Your children (ages 0-12) will enjoy an evening of movies, games, stories, crafts, snacks, and more while you spend some fun, quality time with your better half.

- * Children ages 1-5— 5 to 8 p.m.
- * Children ages 6 and older—6 to 10 p.m.
- * **Cost: \$15 for 1 child * \$25 for 2 or more**

All proceeds will benefit Good Samaritan's Youth Programs Sign up in the entry area at church or at New Hope Christian Academy. Questions please contact:
Trish or Steve Russell at (702) 806-1027

Fellowship and Service Opportunities

Souper Bowl Sunday Packers vs. Saints

On Sunday, February 6, 2011, let's turn Super Bowl Sunday into an opportunity to help others. You will have an opportunity to vote for your favorite Super Bowl team by putting your donation in one of the pots in the entry area. The winning choice of the congregation will be announced in the bulletin and the donations will be given to the food pantry ministry at Lutheran Social Services of Nevada.

Souper Bowl Sunday



People who are committed to a daily exercise regimen find that the discipline keeps them loyal to their determination to stay physically healthy.

People who are committed to tithing their income find that the discipline helps keep them loyal to their determination to stay spiritually healthy by giving their whole life to God.



Let's Go BOWLING

BOWLING TO BEGIN
Sunday, March 6
Gold Coast Hotel
2pm-4pm

The Good Samaritan team will be bowling every Sunday for six weeks beginning on

March 6.

The cost is only \$6.15 per Sunday.

If you would like to join please sign up

We want to thank everyone for their support of our ministry.

Quilting!

On Fridays 9 am to noon, we meet to assemble quilts. As a group we have fun tying the backs, batting & tops together. We donate the finished quilts to Family Promise, Lutheran Social Services and Lutheran World Relief. We take a break midmorning for snacks & socializing. Please join us for fun!



Fellowship and Service Opportunities Continued



Choir Rehearsal

The Adult Choir, Praise Band and Drama Team are in the process of preparing for the upcoming Easter Cantata which will be performed at all services on Palm Sunday weekend April 19th and 20th. If you are interested in helping out with the staging and announcements please contact Val Connor at 645-7869 or by email at: connorjerry@firstam.com.

Adult Choir Practice are every Wednesday evenings from 6:30 -7:30.
Kings Kids Practice are on Sundays after Sunday School approximately 10:40 in Rm 2.

Val Connor
Choir Director



**HAVE YOU
TALKED
TO GOD
TODAY?**

What's Happening?

Call Committee update.

The Call Committee has received three names, for the position of Associate Pastor, from the Synod Office

They have decided to interview two of the three individuals. The committee is currently waiting for two more names so that they can have a minimum of four phone interviews.

We expect those phone interviews to be conducted by the end of February.

The next step will be to narrow those four candidates down to two. Once that is done the Call Committee, without the pastors knowledge, will go visit their current settings and attend the worship service that the pastor is leading.

We will continue to keep you informed as the various steps progress. Our goal is to have a candidate to present to the congregation by late spring to early summer.

Please keep the Call Committee in your prayers during this discernment process.

Men's Breakfast

**We will meet on Saturday
February 12th at 8am**

All men are invited and urged to bring a friend or relative!!

Rudy will make his world famous pancakes.

There will be sausage, juice and coffee.

Please plan on joining us for great food and great fellowship!!



Bits & Pieces



New Hope Christian Academy 1yr Old Pre-School through Second Grade

Are you looking for a wonderful Christian school for your children or grandchildren?

- * Open School Registration starts on Feb 14
- * Space is very limited. Call for a tour at 407-6947 or 301-2020

Don't wait, you don't want to miss out on a great education for your children. Small classes, more one on one attention in a wonderful Christian setting. Contact our School Director Miriam Dake at 301-2020 or dake@newhopwchristianacademylv.org for more information.

Mark your calendar for February 28th, for our Scholastic Book Fair!



**February 13
Grand Canyon Music Group
to Perform**

We have another great musical group coming to sing for us! The Grand Canyon Choir will be here for all services on Sunday, February 13. Come and enjoy the music and bring a friend or two!!

- * No housing is needed.

Lenten Daily Resources

Free Lenten devotion books, teen resources & children's activities will be available March 6th in the entry area. Stop by and pick one up for you or your family.

**Sandwich Ministry
Service Project Sundays**

On the last Sunday of each month, kids will assist with making 300 sandwiches for the homeless.



Thank You

Thank you!

We want to thank the 27 families who opened up their homes and helped host 88 girls and 3 guys from the California University Baptist Choir. The choir really was inspiring and we couldn't have welcomed them without your help. So thank you again for your hospitality!!



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Bible Study Sundays & Tuesdays

- * Please join us for Bible study, at 9:35am Sunday mornings, as Brian Maley leads our study. They meet in room #2 of our education building.
- * Please join Pastor Don every Tuesday at 10am in the Youth Room as we study the book of Esther.



Stewardship Nugget

Investments That Count



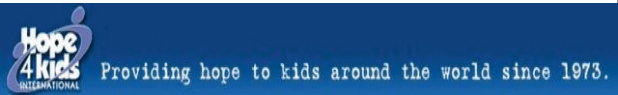
In Luke, Chapter 16, Jesus talks about a rich man who refuses to help a poor, sick man who lies outside the door of his house begging for food. Then, the rich man wakes up in hell for misusing the wealth

God had given him.

Commenting on that parable, John Killinger says, “His mistake, you see, was in not making his money work for him. A lot of it was lying around without doing any good, when it could have been taking care of the poor beggar at the gate.

“The Gospel draws a vivid contrast between this foolish man and one wise woman, who appears in chapter 21. Jesus is at the Temple and sees a poor woman, her gnarled hands clutching two tiny copper coins, come and drop both of them into the treasury. ‘Truly I tell you,’ Jesus said, ‘this poor widow has put in more than anybody, for it was all she had’ (see 21:1-4). “Talk about making your money work for you! Only two copper coins and they earned her a place in history. Here she was with her pittance, and she made it work for her as if it were millions of dollars.

“It isn’t how much you have in life, it’s what you do with it that counts. Everything we have is a trust from God. And the important thing is to learn to use it wisely by sharing it and taking care of God’s world. When we do this, we are making an investment in our own souls.



We are excited to host, again, internationally known speaker and missionary, Tom Eggum. Tom is the Founder and Director of Hope 4 Kids International.

Tom has traveled the world over bringing hope, water, food, and the Good News of Jesus to the neediest of our brothers and sisters in Christ. He will share some of his stories of God at work in other areas of our world and inspire us with his passion for ministry.

Tom will be speaking at the service on Saturday, February 19 and at all services on Sunday, February 20.