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# THE VISITOR

## OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

Westchester, California

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The Mission of Our Savior Lutheran Church  
"To communicate to our community the love of Jesus  
and the changeless Word of God in today's changing world."

**Happy New Year!** Isn't it great to be able to start all over with a new year! It gives us the opportunity to put the troubles and failures of the past behind us and look forward to a new year with joyful anticipation. This is especially true for us as God's children. Jarsoslav Vajda, a noted Lutheran hymn writer, translated these words of a New Year's hymn:

*Now greet the swiftly  
changing year*

*With joy and penitence  
sincere.*

*Rejoice! Rejoice! With  
thanks embrace  
Another year of grace.*

*God, Father, Son, and  
Spirit, hear!*

*To all our pleas incline Your ear;  
Upon our lives rich blessing trace  
In this new year of grace.*

(LSB 896:1,7)



As God's stewards we are reminded that we don't get a fresh start only on the first day of a new year. Instead we get a fresh start every day knowing that in Christ all that is wrong has been forgiven and with the power of the Holy Spirit we are equipped to move forward in our free and joyous management of all of life and life's resources for God's purposes. What we include in all of life and life's resources is described by the hymn writer Frances Havergal with these memorable words:

*Take my life and let it  
be*

*Consecrated, Lord, to Thee;  
Take my moments and my days,  
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.*

*Take my silver and my gold,  
Not a mite would I withhold;  
Take my intellect and use  
Ev'ry power as Thou shalt choose.*

*Take my love, my Lord, I pour  
At Thy feet its treasure store;  
Take myself, and I will be  
Ever, only, all, for Thee.*  
(TLH 441 LSB 783::1, 4, 6)

These verses from that beloved hymn remind us that our whole life is to be dedicated to God so that we use our time, talents and financial resources in ways that bring honor to Him and produce many blessings for those around us.

As we begin this new year let's remember that we are God's redeemed stewards who, in cooperation with and encouragement from fellow redeemed stewards, freely and joyfully manage all of life and life's resources for God's purposes. Let's consider making this our resolution for 2010: ***“Maturing stewards do the right things for the right reasons and strive for excellence in all they do.”***

The Lord bless you and your family,  
*Pastor Umbenhaur*

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## PRAYER CONCERNS

Please add these prayer needs to your daily prayers.

That God send more children and families to our pre-school so we may share the Gospel of Jesus with them.

That God strengthen our faith and love that our stewardship overflows to His glory and building of a lasting ministry at Our Savior.

For healing—Evelyn Trollope. Our men and women in the armed services. Our government officials. Our NATION.

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## CHILDREN OF OUR SAVIOR PRE-SCHOOL

Dear Family and Friends of Children of Our Savior Pre-school,

***Happy New Year!! WOW!! 2010!***

As we enter a new decade, I thank God for the many blessings He not only bestowed on me but to many others as well. December 19<sup>th</sup> marked the 5 year anniversary of me breaking my back sledding with our daughter. I am blessed to have had a surgeon who put me back together and most importantly, I can walk! Yes, it is good to be alive with the hope we have in Christ Jesus whose birthday we just celebrated. Let us remember Him all year long.

I hope and pray that everyone had a wonderful Christmas and Happy New

Year and that you were able to celebrate with family and friends.

Our Christmas programs were a huge success and we had a full house both nights. We were able to send the Flugge family \$600.00 from the offerings that were taken in. Thank you again to Beverly Tietjen, Jim Lyons, Allan Bakalyar, Gary Smith and Pastor Umbenhaur for helping during the program, you all are very much appreciated.

We asked the children in the Stars class what they would give baby Jesus for Christmas and these were their responses: Alicia—I would draw and cut out a balloon, Brooke—a book, Calvin—a power ranger, Cole—a Ben 10 figure, David—a bag of treats, Esme—a Christmas toy, Hayden—action figures, Ian—a hotdog, Jack—a basketball, Jackson—a bottle of milk, Jane—a book, Maya—shoes, Max—a blue car, Nathan—a train, Preston—a train, Riley—a helicopter.

This month we will be talking about winter, Dinosaurs, Transportation, and Space. If you would like to come down to the preschool and read to one of our classrooms, please feel free to come on down. The children love visitors.

Again, I wish you a very Happy New Year.

Serving His Children,  
Ronda Pata

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**ALTAR GUILD**



*“Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts.” Colossians 3:15*

In January we’ll have Holy Communion the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and the 31<sup>st</sup>.

God Bless You.

Ruth Long, Altar Chairperson  
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**JANUARY PRESCHOOL BIRTHDAYS**

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Sofia Catanzariti
- 14<sup>th</sup> Sophia Gharibeh
- 14<sup>th</sup> Louis Church
- 15<sup>th</sup> Dempsey Grim
- 16<sup>th</sup> Breauana Curry-Lee
- 25<sup>th</sup> Skye Smith
- 27<sup>th</sup> Teagan Branch



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**JANUARY BIRTHDAYS**

- 17<sup>th</sup> Kathleen Umbenhaur
- 19<sup>th</sup> Jennifer Sullivan
- 27<sup>th</sup> Kevin Meier
- 28<sup>th</sup> Ronda Pata
- 29<sup>th</sup> Sharon Josten



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**JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES**

- 9<sup>th</sup> Jennifer & Tim Sullivan
- 20<sup>th</sup> Ronda & Kevin Pata

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## FLOWER CHART & REFRESHMENT CHART

There is a NEW Flower and Refreshment Chart in the narthex. Who will be the first to sign up?

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## HEAVEN & HELL

A Holy man was having a conversation with the Lord one day and said, 'Lord, I would like to know what Heaven and Hell are like.'

The Lord led the holy man to two doors. He opened one of the doors and the holy man looked in. In the middle of the room was a large round table. In the middle of the table was a large pot of stew, which smelled delicious and made the holy man's mouth water. The people sitting around the table were thin and sickly. They appeared to be famished. They were holding spoons with very long handles that were strapped to their arms and each found it possible to reach into the pot of stew and take a spoonful. But because the handle was longer than their arms, they could not get the spoons back into their mouths. The holy man shuddered at the sight of their misery and suffering. The Lord said, 'You have seen Hell. They went to the next room and opened the door. It was exactly the same as the first one.

There was the large round table with the large pot of stew which made the

holy man's mouth water. The people were equipped with the same long-handled spoons, but here the people were well nourished and plump, laughing and talking. The holy man said, 'I don't understand. It is simple,' said the Lord. 'It requires but one skill. You see, they have learned to feed each other. The greedy think only of themselves.

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## THE HOLY ALPHABET...

Although things are not perfect  
Because of trial or pain  
Continue in thanksgiving  
Do not begin to blame  
Even when the times are hard  
Fierce winds are bound to blow  
God is forever able  
Hold on to what you know  
Imagine life without His love  
Joy would cease to be  
Keep thanking Him for all the things  
Love imparts to thee  
Move out of 'Camp Complaining'  
No weapon that is known  
On earth can yield the power  
Praise can do alone  
Quit looking at the future  
Redeem the time at hand  
Start every day with worship  
To 'thank' is a command  
Until we see Him coming  
Victorious in the sky  
We'll run the race with gratitude  
Xalting God most high

Yes, there'll be good times and yes some will be bad, but...

Zion waits in glory...where none are ever sad!

'I AM too blessed to be stressed!'

The shortest distance between a problem and a solution is the distance between your knees and the floor.

The one who kneels to the Lord can stand up to anything. Love and peace be with you forever, Amen.

