The word (ο’ λόγος)
Καλά Χριστούγεννα!/ Merry Christmas.
“. . . and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?” – Micah 6:8

The 12 days of Christmas conclude on the Day of the Epiphany, Sunday January 6th. The Epiphany season is soon upon us. However, the Christmas season is just the beginning of the story. Jesus is born and then grows to reveal himself as the Christ, the Messiah. For the Christmas and Easter gift of Jesus we give thanks and praise. We are grateful to our God for the gifts of repentance and forgiveness, for God’s love, grace and salvation.

Each time we gather the story that leads us from Christmas to Easter
While people have rung in the New Year for most Christmas is long forgotten, save bills and credit card statements. As people of the church seasons we celebrate each day, reflecting upon the gift of the Christ child. During the season of Epiphany we remember that both he and his parents were visited by magi, followed by a journey into Egypt.

Once again we tell the story and before we know it the child is grown, baptized by his cousin John, taking up his ministry of repentance and forgiveness. The season of Epiphany is indeed a time of revelation, an occasion for comprehension of who the Christ is and what the Messiah brings to all. While New Years’ resolutions are made, frequently with idle promises, there is the opportunity for us to renew our promise of faithful discipleship. The new year brings with it the opportunity for us to walk as children of the light, to give thanks and praise to God – YAWEH (I Am Who I Am).

Join me as we give thanks, no matter our circumstances, to the God of love and resurrection.
Kara and I thank you for your Christmas cards, gifts and baked goods. Your generosity during the season and through the year is a gift we cherish in our hearts and we give thanks to God for you. Thank you to everyone who participated during Advent with the Mitten and Bible Trees, and those of you who purchased Christmas Cookies/Baked Goods in support of our Youth Group. Added thanks to the Youth Group and Sunday School students who told the Christmas story through Drama and music, and to the teachers and musicians. Thank you to everyone who contributed their time, talents and treasures to OSL in 2018. Your generous support of our Gospel Ministry each weekend and every day, as we serve the Lord, reaches not only those within our faith family but far beyond to people of all nations.

Praise God from whom all good gifts flow and Peace to all this New Year.
That’s the Good News!
That’s the word!!
– Micah 6:8b
Pastor Mark

REMINDER:
Our Savior’s Annual Meeting will be on January 27, 2019. Please submit reports by January 14, 2019 to Renee in the church office. Thank you. If weather cancellation occurs, the meeting will be held the following Sunday.

Remember our Deadlines!
Articles and announcements for the newsletter: The 17th of each month.
Announcements for the worship bulletin: Thursday, noon.
Thank You to everyone who has turned in their Statement of Intent cards.

If you haven’t turned one in yet they are available either in the church office or on one of the tables in the church narthex/entryway.

Remember that when we reach our goal of receiving back 150 Statements of Intent Cards a donor has pledged to give $7,000 of additional funds to enhance our ministry in 2019.

It doesn’t matter what amount you state, any offering/donation is appreciated.

With your support the ministry of OSL will continue to grow.
– Pastor Mark

**Senior Choir Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6th</td>
<td>7:45</td>
<td>Janice C.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9:00</td>
<td>Worship</td>
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<tr>
<td>13th</td>
<td>7:45</td>
<td>Nancy S.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9:00</td>
<td>Worship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20th</td>
<td>7:45</td>
<td>Choir SINGS</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9:00</td>
<td>Ruth L.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27th</td>
<td>7:45</td>
<td>Choir SINGS</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9:00</td>
<td>Ellen R.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Jubilee Bells PLAYS</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**NEWSLETTER CHANGES**

We will continue to print the paper version of the Newsletter in Black and White and the Bulletin – with occasional color inserts.

Also, for those of you with E-Mails who still receive Paper Copies we are transitioning to sending you an e-mail link rather than a paper newsletter copy. This also saves on paper and ink costs, again opening those funds to be used for other Gospel Ministry purposes. Thank You!

Page 2

19 “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; 20 but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” – Matthew 6

With your support the ministry of OSL will continue to grow.

As the story is told, when the Passover celebration was done, and the Nazareth party started on the road to return to Nazareth, Mary and Joseph assumed that Jesus was with the friends and relatives in the group. It was not until evening that the parents discovered to their horror that Jesus was not there. By the time they returned to Jerusalem, it would be the third day without their son. Their anxiety must have been so high. Any of us who has lost a child or who waited for a child that was out too late knows the agony of uncertainty and the panic of imagining all the dangers of the world. Mary and Joseph were astonished to find Jesus in the Temple sitting among the teachers. “Did you not know that I must be at my Father’s business?” Jesus replied. And Jesus returned with his parents and was obedient to them. He increased in wisdom and in years.

This beautiful story has grown with me over the years. I ponder who lost who? Jesus wasn’t lost; he knew where he was all the time. Yet when Mary and Joseph “found” Jesus, he recognized their fears. Jesus understood the value of being obedient to his parents and he willingly put himself under their authority. Later in life, in the garden of Gethsemani, Jesus declared his obedience “even unto death” when it came to facing the cross.

Under the will of the Father for the salvation of the people whom he loves, Jesus willingly set aside his life. Under the will of the Father, Jesus was raised from death to life. You and I now have no fear of death. You and I now can see the value of being obedient to God and willingly put ourselves under Christ’s Lordship. I pray that God can find me again and again ‘being about my Father’s business.’
Quilting Day at Our Savior's! January 5, 2019, 8-4

Rachel Welch and Gina Jahn are organizing a quilting day at the church to help make baptismal quilts. We currently have a very small group of dedicated women who are making all the quilts for the Faith Chests.

Can you help? If you have a sewing machine, iron or quilting supplies please bring to share. We have material donated for the project. You don’t need experience, we can put you to work.

We will provide beverages, please bring a dish to pass. You may give us as much time as you have. We will be at the church on January 5th from 8am until 4pm. We are hoping for a very fun event! Please call Gina Jahn 507-251-1610 to register!

Christmas Senior Lunch and Communion

Jointly sponsored by Caring Ministries and WELCA

47 people were in attendance on Dec. 6 for a lunch for those over 80 and others. All enjoyed the festive atmosphere, food, fellowship, Christmas and Holy Communion. Attendees participated in a Christmas narrative and sang Christmas carols. Plans are in the works for the next one. Thank you to all who helped in any way.

Thank you to those who participated in Christmas Gift Giving enabling many people to have a Merry Christmas. The Mitten Tree and Christmas in Fillmore County.

The staff of Our Savior’s thanks you for the Christmas greetings and the gifts given to us. We also thank you for your continual prayers and support of the work of Jesus Christ. We wish you all a Blessed Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year.

********OPPORTUNITY***********

OSL has an investment account that can accept donations of stocks or mutual funds from individuals for the general budget. If you have questions or are interested, contact Lori Schlitter.

Gareld Stockdale wishes to Thank everyone that wished him well on his surgery.

Thank you to those who have shared poinsettias or have given a donation in memory of or in honor of:

Bradley Knutson at Christmas Time from Lavonne Knutson
Family and Friends from Dick and Sharon Jahn
Floyd Hafner and Duane Michener from Steve & Diane Hafner and Family
Vinton Anderson, Jennie Anderson, Pat Anderson, Art Christopherson, Charlotte Christopherson and Dennis Christopherson from Roy & Jan Christopherson and Family
Clarence & Coleen Nash and Ora Mae Drury from Ginny Nash and Mike Drury
Arnold Rinken & Karmen Rust from Julie Tart
Diana Danielson from The Lyle Danielson Family
Kenneth and Mildred Merkel from Jon, Sara, Joshua, Thomas, & Jacob Warren
Jeff Kolling from Sue, Aaron, Toni, Aspen, Paisley, Matt, Cheyanne, Mason, Caisa, & Callie Kolling
Wendell Kohn from Carol J. Kohn, Jen Niemeyer & Family and Kim Kappers & Family
Ellie Swenson & Herb Mlenar from Jan Mlenar
Harold Queensland from The Queensland Family
Herman & Antonia Keim, Margaret Forrester, William & Lois Jones, & Ted Keim from The Bob Keim Family
Jodi Marie Christopherson-Mercer from Mom and Family
Bob and Virginia Johnson from Daughter and Grandchildren
Roger Gilbert from Ramona Gilbert
Steve Sanders from Bonnie and Toni Sanders
Arden Lenz from his wife, Marge Lenz and Family
Lyle & Clarice Clark and Lowell & JoAnn Brusse from Kenny & Brenda Clark and Family
Jerry Lentz from Polly Lentz and Family
James Dartt from Pastor Betsy Dartt
Family & Friends from The Duane Hyland Family
Don & Isabel Larson from Nevin & Debby Groth
Paul Jasper, Frances and Hoot Burmeister from Ryan and Wendy Thon

Our Savior's Mission Statement

Using God’s Word as a foundation, Our Savior’s Lutheran shall, through meaningful worship, study, prayer and mission outreach, provide a Christ-centered atmosphere of enthusiasm, support, sensitivity and openness to all people.

God’s people find a place of belonging,
God’s people devoted to seek God’s purposes,
God’s people committed to compassionate caring.

New Devotionals are available outside the office door and at the guest registers.
Readings for January

January 5-6 – Epiphany of Our Lord
1st Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6
Psalm: Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14
2nd Reading: Ephesians 3:1-12
Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

January 12-13 – Baptism of Our Lord
1st Reading: Isaiah 43:1-7
Psalm: Psalm 29
2nd Reading: Acts 8:14-17

January 19-20 – Second Sunday after Epiphany
1st Reading: Isaiah 62:1-5
Psalm: Psalm 36:5-10
2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:1-11
Gospel: John 2:1-11

January 26-27 – Third Sunday after Epiphany
1st Reading: Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10
Psalm: Psalm 19
2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

Scriptures subject to change.

Winter Weather Cancellation Policy: Please note: worship service cancellations will be announced on KAAL TV 6, KTTC TV 10, FOX TV 47, KFIL Radio 103.1 FM/1060 AM, KFSI Radio 92.9 FM, Facebook, or check our webpage at www.oursaviorsspringvalley.com.

Offering Envelopes for 2019 are here. Please pick up in the Narthex. If you cannot find yours, please contact the church office via phone at 507-346-7251, email at oursaviors@mediacombb.net, mail to 805 S Broadway, or leave your information on the sheet in the Narthex, and you will be contacted.

Senior League 10-12th Grade
Senior League meets every Wednesdays from 7-8 p.m. in the Tower Youth Room. Talk with your peers about your faith, work on service projects and so much more! We will be starting with a movie in January!

Upcoming events: 7th – 12th grade Lock-IN (January or February)

2019 Youth Works trip: Our youth are going to Denver Colorado in June of 2019. An announcement was made December 9th to reveal our destination. Everyone is excited. Parents meeting will be schedule soon for more information on the trip; watch your emails for dates and times.

Fundraiser update: The youth received $1,310 from the Pie Auction and additional $594 for the Cookie Sales. Thank you to everyone that helped with the fundraiser and those who purchased the amazing baked goods. Heggies Pizza Sales will start January 9th.

We have a large inventory of Scrip cards. Please consider stopping at the table before you go shopping to purchase a card. The youth are able to purchase the cards at a discount. You pay full-price, the youth use the difference for activities for all age levels. The congregation has made this a very successful fundraiser for the youth of OSL.

Please view the monthly newsletter & calendar, plus the Synod’s: River Crossings, & WELCA River Channels newsletters; the ELCA’s: Daily Prayer Ventures & Women of the ELCA: Interchange newsletter, and Gather magazine’s mini Prayer issue, via our website listed on page 7 under Contact Us.

Do you have any upcoming notices for the church bulletin or newsletter? Send your information to us via email at oursaviors@mediacombb.net, bring it in to the office, or mail it to the church address. Thank you.
COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS Sunday Dec. 9, 2018
The treasurer reported the following account balances:
- First National Bank $6,265.11
- First State Minnesota $4,787.84
- Dedicated Savings Account $97,559.89
- Line of Credit Loan $20,000.00
- Line of Credit—Kumm Account $20,000.00

Worship Ministry Team
Activities & Discussions: Christ the King, Advent, and Christmas planning. Poinsettia info, advertising for our Christmas schedule and decorating. Colored bells, instruments, team members for next year and A/V update.

Youth Ministry Team
Activities & Discussions: Budget, fundraisers, shelving for the storage room, and subscription to Pure Flix.

Education Ministry Team
Activities & Discussions: Christmas program, Bible drive, Sunday School offering, ordering Sunday School curriculum, VBS, and painting with kids and adults.

Business & Stewardship Ministry Team
Activities & Discussions: Financial report, offering envelopes, new team members, and finalizing expenses for the budget.

Membership Ministry Team
Activities & Discussions: No new business to report.

Property Ministry Team
Activities & Discussions: No new business to report.

Youth Co-Ordinator
Activities & Discussions: 2019 Youthworks trip, fall pie auction, hygiene bags, tie blankets, Love Lights a Tree, resource room shelving, and upcoming events.

Education Co-Ordinator
Activities & Discussions: Sunday School Christmas program, Sunday School offering designation, and Bible drive tree.

Old Business
Actions: Accepted the proposed expenses for the 2019 budget, nominations for Ministry Team and Council positions.

New Business
Actions: The hours of the office manager/financial secretary will be changed from 36 hours per week to 24 hours per week. Our Savior’s annual meeting will be Sunday, January 27, 2019 following worship, two weeks prior to the meeting, an announcement shall be in the newsletter, bulletin and during worship.

Please note!
Please remember to have family notify the church office if you are in the hospital. The privacy data laws do not allow the hospital to notify the church of your admittance.
Contact Us
Our Savior’s Lutheran Church
805 S Broadway Ave
Spring Valley, MN 55975
Ph 507-346-7251   Fax 507-346-7231
Emails: Main: oursaviors@mediacombb.net If unable to reach try oursaviorsspringvalley@gmail.com
Website: www.oursaviorsspringvalley.com
Like us on Facebook Our Savior’s Lutheran Church, Spring Valley, MN @OSLSV

Pastor Mark Van House-Lead Pastor
Cell 507-279-3141
pastormarkvanhouse@mediacombb.net
Office visits most Tuesdays and Thursday 12:30 – 3:30 pm, also available w/appointment Mondays & Fridays,
Tuesday-Thursday-Saturday mornings. Staff meetings Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons. Pastor’s text study is
on Wednesday mornings.
Pastor Betsy Dartt-Visitation Pastor
Cell 507-884-4853 betsy.dartt@gmail.com

STAFF
Audio/Visual – Darla Erickson
Bookkeeper – Kathy Merkel
Custodian – Toni Sanders
Education Coordinator – Gina Jahn Cell 251-1610
Music Coordinator/Choir Dir. – Elliott Grandall
Handbell Dir. – Myrna Legreid
Office Manager – Renee Ziebell
Youth Coordinator – Ann Oeltjen youthosl@yahoo.com
Office Hours: M-F 8:30 AM-3:30 PM

Thank you to the children for their generosity this fall. We have received funds to support Hassani and enough funds to pay for 11 of the new chairs for the church. Beginning in January the funds remaining after Hassani’s support will be given to the Kingsland Backpack Food Program.

January 27 will be the Annual Meeting for OSL. In order to give the teaching staff opportunity to participate in the meeting as voting members, we are hosting a painting event for all Sunday School children. Sunshine and Roses will be here to help the children create a painting to take home that day. We are paying for the event with Kumm funds. We will need all children to register so that we have enough supplies for them to paint. There is no cost to families. All OSL children are welcome. Watch for on-line sign ups.

Following the Sunday School Hour we will offer pizza and a treat and then we will have an adult painting class. Pre-registration for the adult class is required and the cost will be $20/person.

We are offering an opportunity for you to donate $20 toward a Bible for a child at OSL as they enter 3-year old, 3rd Grade or 7th Grade. There are heart ornaments on a tree in the Narthex. If you choose, you may donate the $20 and have your name listed in the Bible or you may give anonymously. The ministry of giving Bibles supports the baptismal promise to “place in the child’s hands” the Word.

Gina Jahn
Part-Time Education Coordinator
rickjahn71@gmail.com
507-251-1610

WELCA NEWS
Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

All women of the ELCA are welcome to join a meeting. Please notify the hostess if you plan to attend.

Rachel Circle will not meet in December. The next meeting will be Wednesday, January 16, 2019 at 2:00 PM at Jan Mlenar’s.

Rebekah Circle will meet on Tuesday, January 15, 2019 at 7:30 PM at Jeanette Baker’s.
Deaths

Mycal C. Rollie 9/27/1983-12/28/2018
May the Risen Christ be the comfort and hope of all who mourn.

Memorials and Honorariums

In Honor of Don & Judy Rose’s 50th Wedding Anniversary
Audio/Visual Fund   Shirley Gangstad
Choir Fund           Dick & Sharon Jahn
Scholarship Fund     Family & Friends
Stewardship Fund     Lucille Daggett

In memory of Arlene Kappers
Audio/Visual Fund   Deenie Seabright, Friends

In Memory of Pastor E. C. Franke
General Fund         Pastor Jon Olson

Thank you to the follow youth for their awesome help at these events!!

Love Lights a Tree - Christian Knodle, Nora Jahn and William Jahn

Tie Blankets - Josh Warren, Reid Kruegel, Nora Jahn, William Jahn, Nolan Fetterly, Treyton Pokorney, Zachary Queensland and Eric Gusa

Youth Christmas Pageant - Josh Warren, Reid Kruegel, Nora Jahn, William Jahn, Nolan Fetterly, Treyton Pokorney, Zachary Queensland, Eric Gusa, Alexys Harwood, Audrey Webster, Nick Fetterly, Kaden Rath, Thomas Warren, Ellie Archer, Shayla Aarsvold and Megan Queensland. Also, a Big Thanks to Pastor Betsy for your vision & costumes, and Pastor Mark for your rehearsal help.

*Dates to Remember*

January 1 - Office Closed/New Year’s Day
January 2 - No Confirmation or Senior League
January 5 - Quilting Day
January 6 - Sunday School Resumes
January 8 - Lent/Easter Seasonal Planning Meeting
January 9 - Confirmation, Handbells, & Senior League Resumes/Christmas Decoration Tear Down
January 14 - SparkZ/Annual Reports due
January 17 - NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
January 19 - Annual Report Available
January 27 - Annual Meeting/Paint Event
Look inside for articles on …
- Calendar on page 8
- Caring & Concerns on page 5
- Circle Schedules on page 6
- Council Meeting Highlights on page 5
- Dates to Remember page 9
- Education Ministry news on page 6
- Memorials page 3 & 9
- Pastor Betsy Dartt’s column REFLECTIONS on page 2
- Pastor Mark Van House’s column on page 1 & 2
- Scriptures Readings for the Month page 4
- WELCA information on page 6
- Worship Assistants page 7
- Youth Ministry news on page 4 & 9

If anyone is not receiving the newsletter or notifications from the church, either by mail, email, Facebook, or website, please let Renee in the office know and we will get your information updated. Thank you.

Let’s Worship Together…
- Saturdays at 5:30 PM
- Sundays at 9:00 AM
- DVD played on Mondays at 4:15 PM at Spring Valley Care Center
- DVD played on Cable Television on KING4, if both weekend services are recorded, watch Saturday’s service Wednesdays at 7:00 PM & Thursdays at 8:00 PM, watch Sunday’s service on Fridays at 8:00 PM, and the following Sundays at 2:30 PM
- Spring Valley Care Center Communion, Tuesday, January 15th at 10:00 AM
- Hillside Communion, Tuesday, January 15th at 10:40 AM
- Evergreen Communion, Wednesday, January 23rd at 2:30 PM

Bring your friends  Everyone is welcome
If you are unable to serve when scheduled, please find a substitute and notify the church office with the change.

Worship Assistants Sunday (9:00) – January 2019

January 6:
Acolytes – Hunter Middleton, Ira Schmidt
Altar Guild – Annette Hyland
Bread Provider – Ann Keim (1 loaf Saturday)
Communion – No Sunday Communion
Greeters – James & Julie Halla
Scrip Sellers – (10:15) Ellie Archer, Christopher Knode
Scripture Reader – Kathy Baarsch
Videographer – Josh Warren

January 13:
Acolytes – Ashlyn Harwood, Rylie Jacobson
Altar Guild – Gladys Peterson
Bread Provider – Ann Keim (1 loaf Sunday)
Communion – Jan Christianson, Jon & Deb Dahl, Judy Frank, Helen House
Greeters – Brad & Ann Ihrke
Scrip Sellers – (10:15) Alexys Harwood, Ashlyn Harwood
Scripture Reader – Kathy Clark
Videographer – Nora Jahn

January 20:
Acolytes – Jacob Warren
Altar Guild – Carol Ahern, Eileen Rathbun
Bread Provider – Ann Keim (1 loaf Saturday)
Communion – No Sunday Communion
Greeters – Dave & Lori Schlitter
Scrip Sellers – (10:15) Nick Fetterly, Nolan Fetterly
Scripture Reader – Jon Dahl
Videographer – Rick Jahn

January 27:
Acolytes – Brayden Betts, McCormick Fowler
Altar Guild – Verna Stockdale
Bread Provider – Ann Keim (1 loaf Sunday)
Communion – Annette Hyland, Gina Jahn, Verlyn Johnson, Jerry Klevan, Penny Ness
Greeters – Paul & Linda Vomhof
Scrip Sellers – (10:15) Hunter Jorgensen, Hunter Middleton
Scripture Reader – Ann Ihrke
Videographer – Dick Jahn

USHERS: (9:00) Bob Baarsch*, Dick & Sharon Jahn*, Dale Ahern, Dan Apenhorst, Jeff Fowler, Roger Hellickson, Gareld & Verna Stockdale

*denotes head usher

Offering Counter – Shirley Gangstad

Deliver Meals on Wheels – Week of January 7-11: Sharon Jahn, Geraldine Williams

Saturday Service: (5:30)

Scripture Readers:
Jan. 5 – Evelyn Clark
Jan. 12 – Shirley Gangstad
Jan. 19 – Linda Kruegel
Jan. 26 – Marge Lenz

Ushers:
Jan. 5 – Ken Northway
Jan. 12 – Carol Ahern, Eileen Rathbun
Jan. 19 – Linda Kruegel
Jan. 26 – Sandy Richardson

January Service Group
Organizer: Noreen Hebig

The service group lists are of people in the congregation who are asked to bring items for special events at the church. The lists have gone through some changes to try to even out the lists with people who can be available to respond in service. For a number of reasons, there are people who are not included on the lists (shut-in, live out of town, have indicated a desire not to be contacted, etc.) Thank you to all the people in Our Savior’s who live out their faith in caring support of the ministries of the church.

Ahern, Carol
Ahern, Dale
Apenhorst, Dan
Apenhorst, Rich & Evie
Archer, Tony & Jodie
Arndorfer, Brenda
Arneson, Larry & Joyce
Baarsch, Bob & Kathy
Back, Rex & Sue
Baker, Jeanette
Barth, Pauline
Beck, Kevin & Kristin
Bellrichard, Shelly
Betts, Jessy & Heather
Bires, Bill & Deby
Blomgren, Steve
Bly, Kathy
Boland, Tom & Darlene
Bronson, Jon & Jessie