

A bit of GOODNESS ... a dose of HOPE ...
All Saints Lutheran Church
13350 LaGrange Road Orland Park, IL 60462
Don Borling, Pastor 708-448-2939

OCTOBER ... 2008

Dear Friends,

I locked the door Sunday ... it was about 2:00. A few remaining pumpkins on the lawn ... a stray taffy-apple or two ... “bad Nancy” & “good Nancy” had just finished sweeping the floor (was this in your job description?) ... the laughter of children still “in the aire” ... the sounds of Mike Hefter, Mark Nussle, and the amazing choir still in my heart ... another “dollar store” give-away is history ...

This is more than “just a church.”

It's a place of hope.

For an entertainer, who wonders if he'll ever perform again ... for an addict, whose belief in a “higher power” gives him the strength to face each new day ... for a family, seeking to rebuild ... for a young high school student, trying to find the seemingly elusive gift of acceptance ... for “ordinary folks” like you and me, looking for slices of goodness in a world where so much is beyond our control or understanding.

THIS PLACE ... of tile floors and a carpeted gym ...
of strong coffee, and open doors ...
of “walk-in” baptisms ... and spiritual wanderings ...

THIS IS LIFE. It's a collision of individual journeys and shared intersections.

Coming together over bread and wine, songs and tears. Once-a-year, twice-a-year, every Sunday, every day ---- we are a place free of judgment and prejudice ... free of “who's in control” and “who's not” ... because our love is unconditional, yet human ... it's God-given, yet carried inside of the hearts of us human beings: *saints and sinners, the forgivers and the forgiven.*

I'm not telling you anything you don't already know ---- we live in “tough times.” There is an un-easiness and a kind-of “tension” in the air that I haven't felt for a long time. Part financial ... part spiritual ... part emotional ... even physical ...

It affects each of us differently. It affects the church. It affects the very fiber of life itself.

The church needs you ... and hopefully you need the church.

If and when you need something ---- coffee? ... a listening ear? ... a few moments alone in the sanctuary? ... come in ... this is your home, your “oasis” ...

Each of you has a place here.

And ... please ---- don't take this humble place for granted. Don't leave it to “others” to keep the place going. More than ever ... we need the support of each one of you. Maybe you are only here for an occasional wedding or baptism ... maybe you drive up & down LaGrange Road, and you smile when you see “your church” standing there ... you dial the church's number, and you know someone will pick up the phone. All this is possible ---- only because lots of folks care enough *to give something back.*

LIFE. THE CHURCH. It's about giving and sharing.

It's about finding and nurturing places of goodness and hope, when lots of “other stuff” wears us down.

It's us ... together ... making a difference.

luv and joy ... “rev”

a letter to you from our stewardship committee

For the past several years the Stewardship Committee has been asking for your thoughts/ideas for our annual pledge drive. Like Don says in the children's sermons --- "we're still waiting for the e-mails and phone calls."

This year we are a bit more pro-active in soliciting your feedback into the process ... so, we are including a survey. Everyone – age 12 and above – is strongly encouraged to participate. We need your help! Only through everyone participating can we ensure that the needs of our All Saints family members are being met.

So, please take a few minutes (maybe 10?) out of your full day and answer these quick 20 questions.

The first few questions are designed to determine the demographics of our participants. The next questions begin to determine needs regarding stewardship of time, talents, and treasures --- or how we can do better.

There are 3 different ways to complete the survey.

- (1) **ONLINE:** We strongly encourage anyone who is comfortable to complete the survey online by going to: www.surveymonkey.com – log in with **USER:** *allsaintsjoy* and **PASSWORD:** *stewardship*.
- (2) **PAPER SURVEY:** This is enclosed. Additional copies are available at church. Please complete the survey and then mail to the church or bring it to church and put in box located in the narthex.
- (3) **TELEPHONE:** If you would rather be called by a member of the stewardship committee to complete the survey ... contact *Debbie Facius* at the church office --- 708-448-2939.

Any paper or telephone survey information needs to be transferred to the on-line data base. So, if you can take the survey on-line, please do so.

All surveys are anonymous and your privacy is always respected. Only collective data will be shared with the committee and the church council. So, please give this your immediate attention. We would like all surveys completed by Monday, October 20. If you have any questions, feel free to give me a call or send me an e-mail. Thanks to the members of the committee ----- *Mary Ann & Vern Bock, Tom Ellis, Debbie Facius, Gladys Gunnerson, Tom & Jan Tomas, Karen Weyer, and Mike Will.*

NANCY ELLIS 815-557-3440 nancyellis@comcast.net

“for everything there is a season” ... a time for prayer

Mary Ann Lukas' cousin, Andy ... recovering from a stroke Kieran Conway, just beginning 5 months of chemotherapy and radiation Dawn Kelch, continuing her treatments for cancer ... she and husband Blair are grandparents again --- Connor David!! Marion Berglund, continues to be at home
Jim Dodge's dad --- Jim Dodge, Sr. --- is at home Gladys Gunnerson is home re-habbing with her new knee Tom Kindy, brother-in-law of Marty and Janet Volkman Joe Dukendorf, Joanne's Gename's dad, who is hospitalized Larry Gunther, recovering at home from heart surgery Jim Corr, Pat Boldt's father Kerry Berry's family ... Kerry died last week, after a long battle with cancer
Julie Miller, at home recovering from surgery Gail & Andy Mikelson, & little Drew

Any questions about what's on the calendar? ---- give us a call!! A couple HIGHLIGHTS:

**Confirmation meeting for parents and all 7th-8th graders, Monday, Oct. 6, 7:30*

**The epic BURGOO --- Saturday, October 11, 5:00 ... last call for rsvp's on Sunday ----- a great adult evening at the Carlsens' ... outdoor stew, hearty food and drink.*

**Youth --- this Sunday ... “team connect” ... Great America Fright – fest, October 12*

**Next bingo --- Oct. 24 *1st annual Kristie Machay memorial pie-tasting (info. on Sunday), Oct. 26
ALL SAINTS SUNDAY ----- festive worship at 8:30 & 11 ...with our down-home-annual pot-luck dinner ... November 2.*

Habitat for Humanity ... we need some more volunteers this Saturday, Oct. 4 ---- “older youth” and adults ... call church right away if you can come.

TO ALL ----- LOTS OF LOVE AND JOY!!