

**“Some news from the pews” ... “meanderings from an aging pastor”
Hey ... it’s just a humble NEWSLETTER!!**

“Beginning of August” ... 2009

**ALL SAINTS LUTHERAN CHURCH
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Dear Friends,

Learned a lot over the past couple weeks. About life ... the church ... the human spirit.

Sue Torsberg’s memorial service last week. A full church ... the music ... the spirit and energy in our sanctuary. When someone lives a good life ... even if it wasn’t as long as we’d like ... and they have a church, a spiritual home ----- it’s so good to have a celebration of God’s gift of life and what someone like Sue means to her family and friends. Moments like her funeral ... they are such a reminder of how important having a “church home” is ... where we can gather, share each others’ journeys, and come together at important intersections in our lives.

Then ... this past Sunday ... just sitting in church ... with my family ... sharing in the liturgy ... listening to Craig’s vigorous and personal message ----- “So, this is what it’s like to sit in row 7 on a Sunday morning!@!!” Jude and I weren’t planning on being here last weekend ... but, because of all that’s going on in our lives, we knew we had to stay home. We thought of going elsewhere ... so we wouldn’t be “in the way” ... but like Jude said to me: “Don, at times like this ... we need the church ... we need our spiritual friends.”

It felt so good to be in church.

You know? ... I really enjoy writing the newsletter. I enjoy preaching ... communicating with each of you.

I must admit, too ... when we mail this humble letter ... it’s a melancholy reminder --- at least to me --- of how many folks are “in our church” ... but don’t *come to church*.

Maybe the message gets a bit old and stale.

Maybe ... over time ... the church doesn’t speak to you as much as it once did.

I worry that ... maybe ... I or “the church” hasn’t reached-out to you ... when you needed it.

THE CHURCH ... “the body of Christ” ... we have very spiritual mission ... but ---- at the same time ---- we are “insanely human.” We are as successful and as broken and as inspiring and as boring and as majestic and as imperfect AS HUMAN BEINGS CAN BE!!

We reach-out to those who can’t help themselves ... we open the door to an imperfect world ... we have an outdoor area that touches your spirit ... we drink wine & share bread as symbols of all the good Lord sacrifices for us.

The challenge ... each day ... is to be “the best we can be.”

I don’t always “meet the challenge” ... but all we can do is try ... and reach-out ... and care.

I hope each of you ... (and I will, too) ... will think about your relationship to the church ... and what it means or doesn’t mean. We need each other ... we need your support ... we certainly can’t take what we have for granted ... and we can’t leave it “up to others” to do it!!

We have a good place here ... it makes a difference in the lives of lots of people.

This Sunday ... I’ll assume my “usual position” by the altar.

But this past week reminds me ----- *it’s those of you who sit in rows 1 thru 8 who are the heart-and-soul of what we stand for.*

joy ... “rev”

A bit of financial & outreach news

Our church is handling these tight financial times pretty well. The bottom line is ---- we don't spend what we don't have. As of the end of June ... our average weekly income from just offering monies is: \$9582.

What we need to meet our budget is: \$10,200. So, we are close ... and we do get additional non-offering monies that helps to make up the difference. I keep thinking ... if each of us would do what we can ... if each of us would participate in supporting our ministry ----- whether you are here on Sunday or not ----- we would really be able to stay on top of our obligations. In the meantime, we're doing ok ... & thanks.

Speaking of outreach ...

We talked at length at our last council meeting ... about trying to reach-out to people in our church who are going through tough times financially. If you are having difficulty ... if you know someone who is having difficulty ... we invite you to call the office here and talk to me. This is what we are about. If you would rather talk to someone on the council --- for example, our President Jim Gierach --- he is open to speaking to anyone. I hope you know ----- this would be very confidential. We know some of you are struggling ... and we want to be supportive in any way we can.

THERE ARE LOTS OF PEOPLE WHO NEED YOUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS ... remember our "prayer book" is out every Sunday ... and we try to keep our prayer list pretty current on our web-site.

**We had a memorial service for Sue Torsberg last Friday here at All Saints. *Gladys Gunnerson and her daughter Joanne Bangs ---- they are both dealing with cancer. Joanne is at Christ Hospital ... and Gladys is at Alden in Orland Park (just behind Masrcus Theater). *John Trier continues to be at the University of Chicago Hospitals. *Dennis Burke is under hospice care at his home in Tinley Park. *Lynne Nelson's aunt --- Mary Brogan --- is in hospice care. *John Ristic's brother --- Danny --- is being treated for cancer. *Don Bunt's 93-year-old mom is in the hospital. *Joe and Jen Cernak just may have their new baby by the time you get this newsletter ... another grand-child for Nancy Pierz. *Jackie Chmielewski's sister --- Pat Pelcher --- is having a biopsy this week. *SFC Randall Diericks --- nephew of the Diericks family --- is being deployed to the Middle East for the 6th time. *Donna Freiberg's mom --- Loretta Grube --- has just been diagnosed with cancer. *Our friends from St. Coletta's have said "good-bye" to two long-time staff members, who died recently ---- Lucille Reed and Louise King. *Alan Facius' dad died this past week ... his funeral will be in LaCrosse, Wisc. next Wednesday. May God bless Horst's spirit and memory.*

OUR FUN-FESTS for the residents and staff of St. Coletta's continue through August ... every Tuesday evening from 5:30 – 7:30.

THE BIG BAND SOUND comes our way on SUNDAY, AUGUST 23 ----- 5:00 PM in Charter Hall. Doug Klang and "company" are fantastic. You can make your rsvp's beginning Sunday. Bring an appetizer or dessert to share ... cash bar ... free-will offering ... and some of the best music you'll ever hear.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 30 ... CAR WASH IN THE MORNING, PICNIC AFTER CHURCH ...

Bring family and friends ... great food ... games for the kids ... bring something to share ... we provide "the main stuff" ... a free-will offering and a festive spirit ... it's all GOOD!!

OUR SUMMER SCHEDULE runs through Labor Day weekend ... then on September 13 ... Sunday School begins ... the choir begins ... and worship will be at 8:30 and 11 ----- with choir and Sunday School in-between. Please register your kids for Sunday School soon --- either on Sunday morning, or drop-by during the week. We have classes for kids turning 3 by September 1 thru grade six. Our Monday evening CONFIRMATION PROGRAM for 7th-8th graders begins at the end of September ---- stay tuned!!

WE HAVE WORSHIP EVERY THURSDAY NIGHT.

We are outdoors when weather permits. It's very informal ... we always share the Lord's Supper ... but, most of all, it's a mid-week spiritual boost.

To all of you ----- may God's spirit nourish and strengthen you!!

Hope to see you "in the temple" ---- Thursday ... or Sunday ... or drop by for some great coffee!!