

**A BIT OF HOPE ... A SLICE OF GOODNESS ... SOMETHING "in the aire"**  
**ALL SAINTS LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**13350 LaGrange Road    Orland Park, IL 60462**  
**Don Borling, Pastor 708-448-2939            Ministers: "all the people"**

**EARLY DECEMBER, 2009**

Dear friends & family ...

Whoa ... do I need Christmas!@!!

Not the "cluttered" part ... not the competition for our time and our money part ...  
not the last-minute tension ... and trying to fit everything and everyone in ...

I need the softness of the manger ... I long for an angel, coming into my life, when I least expect it ... on an ordinary night, I want to discover the most precious gift in the world ... I need to reach into my "gift bag" and share all I have with a savior who changes the world.

*It's not about shopping ... it's about giving.*

*It's not about my schedule ... it's about our shared destiny.*

*It's not about "me" ... it's about us.*

Ray calls me the other day. Ray has been around this church almost as long as I have. He's a little rough around the edges ... his life (like most of ours) is full of ups-and-downs. We've shared it all over the years --- births, baptisms, grand-kids, confirmations, weddings, divorces, funerals, lay-offs ...

He's having surgery this week ... they found a tumor embedded in his spine.

*The softness of the manger ... an angel or two ... the most precious of gifts ----- THIS WILL BE HIS CHRISTMAS.* The hope of healing ... the prayers of strangers ... a "love bucket" that never gets empty.

Advent worship tonight. "Silent Night" around the tree.

Putting another day to bed ... singing with the hope of a better tomorrow.

Men and women on their way to Afghanistan & Iraq ... what will Christmas bring for them and their families?

I think of the song we will sing on Sunday ----- "Prepare the royal highway ..."

Each of our journeys is a "royal highway" ... bumps, turns, moments, and miracles ... shared by a carpenter-son. We share it together ... we share it with Ray ... yes, we all need Christmas ---

*the spiritual Christmas ... which really has no season.*

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Over the next couple weeks ... we'll be asking you to consider making a financial commitment to the ministry of our church for 2010. I know for some of you ... that combination of "church and money-talk" brings back a few bad memories. But ... it's not like this here.

I've been thinkin' and reflecting ...

Most of the time ... when we ask for money ... it's for "someone else" ...

*A friend of yours, who's having a tough time ... a cause you believe in ... a family who needs a boost ... a "stranger" facing life-changing re-hab ... 32 families at Christmas ... places like St. Coletta's and a cancer camp for young people ... Heartland Children's home in Texas ...*

If it wasn't for the church ... we couldn't do all this ... at least, we couldn't do it here.

The reason we have this place ... the reason we have a staff ... the reason we pay our bills and have a mortgage ... IT'S ALL ABOUT OUTREACH. Reaching-out to others ... reaching into our souls ... that we may be connected to a power greater than all of us.

We're going to keep it simple this year.

A couple short testimonials on a couple Sundays ... a mailing next week ...

The rest is up to you ... to each of us.

And, by the way ... in light of some of the struggles many folks are facing ... if you know of someone who's going through a particularly tough time, and may need some help ... please call the office.

It's all confidential ... and hopefully we can help.

God bless and joy to all ... "rev"

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### **prayer keeps us connected**

*Darelene Agner is having tests at Christ Hospital. Gerry Levenda's mom (Mary) died a couple weeks ago. Dan Micek's dad (Larry) also died a couple weeks ago. Sandra Harneck's aunt --- LaVerne Schmidt --- died last Sunday. Margaret Kelly's dad --- Bob McArthur --- is having tests. Paula Albrecht just had surgery. Vera Heiser continues to be at Adventist LaGrange Hospital. Bob Wisniowicz's dad --- Walter --- is at Palos Hospital. Ray Kramer is having surgery on Friday, for a tumor in his spine. Julianna Ramos continues her re-hab at RIC in Chicago. Bob Gename is "back in the house" after his heart procedure.*

### **SOME CHRISTMAS HAPPENINGS AT ALL SAINTS**

*\*Thursday, Dec. 10 and Sunday the 13<sup>th</sup> ... our artist faire ... before and after worship ...*

*\*ONE MORE ADVENT SUPPER ... Thursday, Dec. 17, 6:30 ... around the tree, before worship (please rsvp if you are coming).*

*"Christmas around the world" ... 9:30 on Sunday, December 20 (between services)*

We would enjoy having you share a "holiday dish" from your ethnic/family tradition ... we put it all out ... and enjoy just being together.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS REHEARSAL ... Saturday, Dec. 19 --- 9:00 am.**

### **CHRISTMAS EVE**

*\*The Christmas Story --- 4:00 ... with lots of energy from our Sunday School kids.*

*\*Candlelight worship, 9:30 & 11*

*(We share Communion after the 11pm service is concluded, for those desiring to stay)*

**Jude and I and our family** have an OPEN HOUSE on Christmas Eve ... beginning at 5:00 ...

if you have the time ... if you are alone ... if you're not alone ... just stop by. A bit of food, a splash of goodness ... we'd be honored to see you.

**POINSETTIA PLANTS** ... if you'd like to donate one for our holiday worship ... the forms and payment envelopes are at the church. A "gentle angel" has made it possible for larger plants to be less than last year ----- \$20/plant.

**OUTREACH** ... there is still time to make a donation for helping our families in need ... we appreciate all that you do.

**GENTLEMEN OF THE CHURCH ... the men's club (Fred's uncles)** is having a Christmas pot-luck on Wednesday the 16<sup>th</sup> --- in Charter Hall. We would enjoy having some "new guys" come and see what this group is like. So ---- make an rsvp in church on Sunday.

*Let the spirit live ...*

*Invite the spirit in ...*

**LOVE AND JOY TO ALL!!**

