

A TOUCH OF GOODNESS ... on an ordinary day ...
ALL SAINTS LUTHERAN CHURCH
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End of April ... 2009

Dear Family and Friends,

You know as well as I do ... there is so much in life that just doesn't make sense. Stuff happens ... more stuff happens ... and there seems to be no rhyme or reason. As we get older ----- well, we see more ... we know more people ... our journey takes on more & more twists and turns ... and we experience more of that rich – unpredictable combination of joy & sorrow, success & failure, tears & laughter.

So, what ... in life ... does make sense???

**God does. Yes, God makes sense. A power bigger than us ... embracing us, loving us.
Makes a lot of sense.*

**Jesus makes sense. Being humble ... and forgiving ... and just plain decent to the variety of God's children.*

**Going to church ... laughing and caring ... singing and praying ... coming to the altar ... sharing gifts of bread and wine ... watching kids smile ... connecting with a stranger ... this makes sense.*

**THE LOVE BUCKET MAKES A LOT OF SENSE ... it's a reminder that I need to be a "love bucket" to people, once-in-a-while. Go the extra mile ... give a little bit more ... open my heart and my wallet and my life to the cries for help around me.*

**Kids make sense ----- their eyes ... their sense of wonder ... their innocence ...*

**Our "humble temple" makes sense ... not because it's better than any other place, and certainly not because we're not without our faults ... but it's just a good place to be ... to be human ... to re-connect ... to be reminded of the grace from which we live ...*

**Being good makes sense. It does. It's easy for goodness to get lost or un-noticed or un-appreciated ... but goodness is about our heart and soul. When we exude goodness ... we feel good about who we are ... it's satisfying ... goodness is its own reward.*

**Being true to ourselves makes sense. To be real ... to be genuine ... leaving phoniness and pretense behind ----- it's refreshing ... it makes others want to be around us.*

Alzheimer's and cancer ... MS and living with a serious disability ... a young child living in fear ... a hard – worker who can't land a job ... a decent kid who never gets a chance to play ... floods and hurricanes, changing lives forever ... a starving child in a land of poverty ...

Oh, yes ---- this is the kind-of stuff that makes no sense at all!

But ...in the midst of all thiswe are called to live with hope and goodness in our hearts.

It's who we are.

It's who we're called to be.

***The love bucket. A "humble temple." A higher power. The sandals of a carpenter.
Fred. Goodness of spirit. Humility and grace.***

These are our trademarks.

Often challenged. We sometimes wonder and doubt. But ---- it's good.

And --- it MAKES SENSE.

luv and joy to all,

"rev"

OUR MOTHER-DAUGHTER-NIECE-FRIEND-COME-BY-YOURSELF-GRANDDAUGHTER BANQUET ... yes, it's coming up on SUNDAY, MAY 3rd ... 12:30. A wonderful lunch of pork tenderloin and/or chicken breast ... a hot-dog plate for the young ones ... good coffee, champagne punch and wine ... good music ... a few laughs ... it's all yours ---- thanks to our men's club!! You need to buy your tickets on Sunday. Or --- drop by the church ... you can call the office and we'll hold them for you. Please come and enjoy a couple hours of goodness and love.

AND ... SPEAKING OF LADIES ... "ladies nite out" ... Friday, May 15, 6:00.

Tickets on sale ... \$10 includes your food and drink. For modest prices ... you can also get a manicure, chair massage, yoga demonstration ... some nice items for purchase --- Mary Kay, Pampered Chef, neck wraps & other things. Looks like a fun time ... all happening at the church.

ARE WE LOSING THE WAR ON DRUGS???? ... perspective and discussion ...

This is for youth-group age kids, parents, any adults ... who aren't afraid to discuss this issue and maybe think about it "outside the box." Jim Gierach ... our council president and retired attorney ... has been advocating new thinking around this issue for years. We may not agree ... but he challenges us to think about an issue that has impacted many of our lives. SUNDAY, MAY 17 ... 5:00 ... we'll have some refreshments. Please sign-up, because we want to make sure we have a decent turn-out.

THE LAST DAY OF SUNDAY SCHOOL IS SUNDAY, MAY 17 ... AND WE END WITH A SPECIAL PRESENTATION OF THE WHEEL OF WISDOM.

This is a great game show ... and we encourage parents to join us.

BLOOD DRIVE ... HERE AT ALL SAINTS ... SATURDAY, MAY 16 ... 9:30 – 12:30.

If you are healthy ... this is a great gift. Many of us have been the recipients of blood at a time of need. If you'd like to make an appointment to give blood ... call the office (448-2939).

MOTHER'S DAY PLANT SALE ... all morning on May 10.

These are beautiful hanging plants ... from Every Bloomin' Thing. The profits from this sale benefit our fine youth group ----- and, our kids are doing great things this year.

GARAGE SALE: Friday/Saturday --- June 19 and 20.

There is a packet of information about the sale at the church. We'll be needing lots of help ... sign-ups to help the week prior and on the days of the sale will be out beginning this Sunday.

The garage sale is all part of our church's "economic and spiritual stimulus program."

MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND (Sunday, May 24) ... begins our summer season ...

with worship at 8:30 & 10 ... Sunday School adjourned 'til September ... and Thursday evening worship continuing at 7:30. Hopefully we'll be moving outside for Thursday evening worship soon.

WE ARE TAKING BRICK ORDERS for our OUTDOOR AREA.

We hope to place an order soon. There are all kinds of things you can do with a brick ---- one for your family, in memory of someone who has died, honoring a baptism or marriage. If you have questions, please call the church office.

I SINCERELY HOPE your financial support of our ministry will continue to be strong, as we move into the so-called "summer season." Our financial obligations continue year-round. This summer we have to address two expensive items: We must repair and re-surface our parking lot ... and we need to make significant adjustments to our air-conditioning & heating system. We'll keep you informed as to how we are doing with this ... most of all --- your support is much-needed and very much appreciated. Thanks to all!!

