

**A bit of hope and joy ... in an ordinary newsletter**  
**ALL SAINTS LUTHERAN CHURCH "Oasis of Joy" USA**  
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**End of June ... 2009**

**Dear Friends ...**

The garage sale has come and gone. To say the least ----- it is an interesting event ... no, not interesting --- actually, STIMULATING. The incredible "sea of people" coming through this place ... the people from our church ----- coming together, working together, bringing a bit of joy to the "strangers" who enter our humble temple ... in search of bargains, wondering what this place is like.

**Life is an incredible journey.**

Each of our journeys is unique ... often special ... never without its share of pain.  
I sit at my desk for a few moments ... reflecting on all the "souls" who came through here over the past 2 days.  
Mom and dads and kids ... people who could barely walk ... folks who go to garage sales with the same passion that some of us follow sports.  
Families of 12 holding hands and skipping ... lonely men and women who can hardly look at you.  
It's a "human casserole" ... people from every "planet" ...

Tomorrow ... I will be at the Lord's table.

Hawaiian bread ... table wine ...

Walkers and wing-tips and tennis shoes ... old and young ... Lutheran and Unitarian ...  
the churched and "un-churched" ... people searching, folks wondering ...

And ... for a moment ... we are "one" ----- in spirit, in our humanity, in our shared  
hunger for a good and decent life: for ourselves, and for those we love.

After sharing bread and wine ... it's off to camp. I look at these young people ... at such a critical juncture in their lives ... starting high school in a couple months ... trying "to find their way" ... coming to grips with who they are ... wanting to be accepted ... finding the courage to be true to the person God had made them to be ----- 35 years we've been coming to this camp. We have incredible kids in our humble church. Different, yet bonded ... here, in this "oasis of joy" ... they have a kind-of freedom to be real and genuine ----- they don't have to be anyone else but themselves.

Our world is changing fast ... too fast for an "old guy" like me. In the middle of all of this is a church.

\*an open door

\*coffee and love

\*imperfect, yes ... but we are never going away ... we'll always be an "oasis of hope and joy". From the family who needs our garage sale to buy clothes for their kids ... to the 14-year old, who finds acceptance for his wrinkled "heart-song" ... to the stranger "down-the-street" who finds acceptance in the midst of all his doubts and fears ... to each one of you, who needs healing and hope --- in your world of unexpected twists and turns.

Well ... it's back to camp.

I hope each of you has a bit of time to reflect, play, and be with those you love this summer.

All Saints needs each of you ... your support, your prayers, your goodness of spirit.

And I hope ... in some small measure ... we bring a dose of goodness and joy into your lives.

Love and joy ...

"rev"

**A few musings about a few things**

**\*A NOTE ABOUT OUR “FUN-FESTS” ...**

A couple changes. This Tuesday, June 30<sup>th</sup> --- no “fun-fest” because our parking lot is being repaired and re-sealed. Then ... on July 7<sup>th</sup> ... we are taking about 30 St. Coletta’s folks to see a Thunderbolts baseball game in Crestwood. We would like about 20 of our folks to go along ----- we have 20 additional tickets. You can sign-up on Sunday for this game. There is no cost to you for the tickets ... we’ll all “pitch-in” to buy our St. Coletta’s friends refreshments at the game.

**\*Celebrating AMERICA... with one service on July 5<sup>th</sup> --- 9:30 am.**

The VFW will present the colors ... we are presenting a flag to one of our members, whose dad never received the flag when he died. Lots of good music and readings ... and a time to remember what the 4<sup>th</sup> of July is all about. Afterwards ... a nice reception, honoring our veterans.

**\*Thursday evening ... July 2<sup>nd</sup> ... the youth group is leading our worship.  
So, YOUTH GROUPERS ... PLEASE SIGN-UP TO HELP OUT.**

**\*THE STEAK FRY IS SATURDAY, JULY 25<sup>TH</sup>, 6:30 PM.**

This is a fun and very meaningful event. This year ... we have a band ... we have a big tent over the parking lot ... and, as always, great food and drink. The men’s club sponsors this great adult evening. And just before dinner is served ----- we take a few moments to remember those who have died from cancer and those who are living with cancer. This year we are dedicating the steak fry to 3 ladies, whose journeys with cancer have touched and inspired us: Anne Fritz, Lori Gloodt, and Sue Torsberg.

Also, please know ----- the tickets are \$20 ... but this is not a fund raiser ... so, if the price-tag is a bit too high, just pay what you can!! Several people make donations to help underwrite the cost of the ticket sales.  
We just want lots of you to come and enjoy the evening.

**\*REMEMBER OUR THURSDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICES ... every Thursday at 7:30 pm.  
Weather permitting ... we worship “out-back” ... it’s a beautiful setting.**

**\*WE ARE LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS IN SEVERAL AREAS ----- ushering ... help serve  
Communion ... being a reader ... greeting before worship ... we’d love to have you join in.  
Also --- there is the opportunity to share altar flowers and the gift of the eternal light.**

**WE HAVE A LOT TO CELEBRATE THIS SUMMER ... hope to see you in the “humble temple”!!**