

**A bit of GOODNESS AND JOY ... mid-winter ... “is spring in the aire???”**  
**ALL SAINTS LUTHERAN CHURCH “Oasis of Joy” USA**  
**13350 S. LaGrange Road Orland Park, IL 60462**  
**Don Borling, Pastor 708-448-2939**

**January 20, 2009**

**Dear Friends,**

*I wonder what it would be like ... as we reflect on this “inauguration day” ... to wake up the morning ... knowing ----- the whole world is looking at me ...and wondering: WHAT WILL HE DO NEXT??*

Some will do everything they can ... to help me succeed.

Others? ... yes, others will just wait for my first mis-step ..... and the words “I told you so” won’t be far behind.

Whether we’re a president ... or a short-order cook ... or a small-time preacher ----- we’re all human, we’ve got our share of advocates and detractors ... we also have our own soul and spirit.

The longer I’m here (and I’m so glad to be here!!) ... the older I get ... the more of life I see ... the more I’m touched by the eyes & hearts & journeys of people like you ... the more I discover and re-discover ---- religion is about life.

It’s about the way we choose to live it.

It’s about how we respond to the twists-and-turns ----- the ones we expect, and the ones we don’t.

For President Bush over the last 8 years ... he’s had to face so many issues that affect the world community.

President Obama ... the issues and expectations are staggering.

You and me? ... small potatoes in comparison ... but for those who share our “little corner of the kingdom” ... how we carry ourselves can impact and even change lives.

*Frozen pipes ... trips to chemo ... holding a child, whose world is falling apart ... a kind word to a lonely stranger ... a dash of forgiveness, in an often-harsh world ... a gentle “hello” in the church narthex ... buying lunch for someone who is broke ...*

Jesus is not some bigger-than-life savior, who comes alive with self-righteous preaching ... from people who think he is the possession of the “chosen few.”

Jesus is a humble beacon ... a gentle friend ... a spirit of goodness ----- empowering us, nudging us, uplifting us ... and finally moving us ... to make a difference in the varied steps we take in this unpredictable journey called life. A smile or nod ... the gritty determination to face another day ... putting our agenda on the back-burner, in order to bring hope to someone who can’t make it on his own ----- yes, this is where Jesus lives. This is precisely where a humble carpenter comes to life.

We don’t know what this year will bring ... but we’ll “walk it” together.

In the midst of all we face ... the uncertainty ... the unpredictability ----- I hope each of you will search your heart ... and try to make some kind of financial commitment to our “humble temple.”

We have a good place here. This place ... our openness, our accessibility, our human approach ... the wide door, the ever-present coffee (yes, there is hot – water for tea!!) ... “being there” even for people who have never known us before ... “being there” for you and those you care about ----- please, we can never take this place for granted. Now, more than ever ..... we all need to share, do our part, and come together.

Enough preacher-talk ... it’s time to close.

Religion. Life. Goodness and grace ----- we’ll celebrate and affirm it again on Sunday.

See you “in the temple.”

Joy .... rev

## PRAYER IS GOOD

*Little Drew Mickelson is holding her own at Christ Hospital ... home in February?  
Lynn Emme is a grandma!! ... Leo James Bencic, born on January 15. Joan DiCarlo is recovering from a broken hip at Silver Cross. Rachel Noteboom and "the O'Malley brothers" are in Washington, D.C., marching. Alex Nelson and the Lemont b-ball team have their first victory ... Alex is playing great!  
Mike Schwartz from Heartland ... his best buddy Bill Miles died suddenly. Kathy Rüter's dad is home from this hospital. Dee Etscheid's cousin – Steve Pearson – was seriously hurt in a car accident.  
Stephanie Mena is cancer free!! Ann Fritz continues her chemotherapy.  
Prayers for all folks ... whom we carry in our heart --- everyday!!*

## A FEW THINGS COMING UP

### **Our annual meeting is this Sunday, January 25**

We hope many of you will take the time to attend ----- all "confirmed members" can vote ... and everyone is welcome. The most important issues are the presentation and adoption of the budget, and the election of new council members. Immediately following the 2<sup>nd</sup> service ... an informal breakfast is available in Charter Hall ... followed by the meeting.

### **Adult bowling is this Sunday ... there are still a few spots open.**

We gather at 4:00 ... buffet at 4:30 ... then the lanes are ours, beginning at 5:45.

This happens at Thunderbowl ----- just off 191<sup>st</sup> and LaGrange Road in Orland. Please call immediately if you'd like to join us.

### **The Superbowl is Sunday, February 5 ... party at 5:00 (maybe!!)**

We have a "party" here ... but we need to know how many ... 'cause if the response isn't good, we probably won't have it. You can sign-up Sunday. Everyone brings an appetizer ... we're cooking h-dogs, brats, and burgers ... we'll have pop, wine, beer, and coffee ... and, of course, the "love bucket" to help with the cost.

### **COUNTDOWN TO THE SPAGHETTI DINNER ... SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 6:00.**

This is our biggest and most-fun fund-raiser of the year. Tickets are \$22 ... please purchase them soon!! Also ----- if the \$22 is a bit much for you ... you can write your check or put cash in the envelope for whatever you can afford. We don't want the ticket price to keep anyone away. This is a great adult evening. After dinner ... we have an auction. So, those of you who can ---- please do your best to come up with some ideas. We need your auction donations prior to the event ... no later than noon on that day. Gift baskets, gift certificates, craft and art work, services rendered, funny things, crazy things, anything is possible. You can get your tickets Sunday ... or come by the church during the week.

### **OUR NEXT BIBLE STUDY IS ABOUT TO BEGIN ...**

Every-other Wednesday, beginning January 28 ... 7:00 PM. The topic for this go-round is ---- *life principles, learned through the women of the Bible*. Craig Nelson does a nice job with our Bible studies ... with a "little help" from me ... but not much!! We're even trying to order a book for this session.

There's always lots of discussion ... you can sign-up on Sunday, or call the church.

**FIRST COMMUNION ...** I will be having a one-session class for kids in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and older, who don't yet receive Communion. Also you'll be learning about Communion in your 3<sup>rd</sup> grade Sunday School class.

The date for the class will be announced soon ... & you can receive Communion beginning Holy Week.

### **LENT IS COMING SOON ... with Ash Wednesday on February 25.**

We didn't have much response for our "Advent Suppers" ... hopefully things will be different during Lent. So ---- stay tuned!!

*\*\*Many of you have your year-end giving statements enclosed. If you have questions, give our comptroller Kathy Klang a call ---- 708-479-0588. If you have an offering envelope number, you should have a statement. Please call Kathy if you don't and think you should have one. Envelopes for 2009 are at the church. If you'd like envelopes and don't have them ... there is a form here you can fill out. Also, if you made a contribution to the church that is not reflected on your statement ... please call the office and we'll provide a letter for you.\*\**