

Some “news and views” from the SPIRITUAL LOVE BUCKET
ALL SAINTS LUTHERAN CHURCH
13350 LaGrange Road Orland Park, IL 60462
Don Borling, Pastor “all the folks” ... ministers of goodness

IT IS EARLY NOVEMBER ... 2009

Dear Friends,

49 years ... it's how long our humble church has been around.

My guess is ... what the church means ... how important the church is ... how it affects you, your life, your family & friends ----- it's different for each one of you. I think about each of you a lot, especially as we do the newsletter ... and I wonder: why doesn't he come? ... where have they been? ... I hope they're ok ... it was fun to see her come back!!

Each of our journeys is unique ... nobody walks in your shoes. It can be a lonely feeling, when times are tough ... and you wonder if anyone cares. There are also those incredible good times ... moments of victory ... and it's fun to have people with whom to share your joy.

My hope is this ... my passion is this ... and it's deeper now than ever ----- I want religion, the church, the spirit of this place to speak to the stuff you go through each day.

Jesus walked the dusty streets of Galilee ... and he brought his message of dignity and grace to wherever people lived. The religion Jesus embodies is grounded in the very grit of the human experience. We can play all kinds of games with religion. We can make rules for the Lord's Supper ... we can play the “salvation – game” about who gets to heaven and who doesn't.

But ... this isn't Jesus-centered.

RELIGION ... THE CHURCH ... it's about life's “ordinary” stuff.

*Having the courage to go to re-hab ... not pretending that our kids are perfect ... standing tall when we make a mistake or take a wrong turn ... sharing our bounty with someone whose cup is empty ... rejoicing in our differences ---- color, race, culture, religion, life-style ... holding onto those truths & beliefs & principles uniting us and binding us ...
resisting the temptation to be so critical and negative that we bring someone else down ...
and maybe most important: living with confidence and courage ... while, at the same time, walking with humility, gentleness, and compassion for the varied humanity around us.*

The smell of Thanksgiving is in the “aire” ... the early darkness, the falling leaves, boiling coffee over an open fire. One of the things I miss the most ... is the smell of burning leaves. I guess the smoke isn't good for the air ... but the aroma: it can turn an ordinary day into a small miracle of goodness.

I'm kind-of hoping ... as the calendar year winds down ... as the holiday season approaches ... as we get caught – up in all of “stress” this time of the year can bring on ...
take a few moments ... think a bit about what this place means to you ... do the best you can to keep the “love bucket of goodness” alive and well.

And together ... let's capture the spirit of what this holiday season is all about.
*We have a good little place here ... it makes a difference to a whole bunch of people.
Thanks ... “we're in this together” ----- amen “rev”*

PRAYER KEEPS US CONNECTED

**Mike Will's sister – Marge Koenig – died last weekend, after a long battle with cancer.
*Kaitlyn Kobza – daughter of Steve and Amy, granddaughter of Jim & Susan Van Burk – is being baptized Sunday. *Ruth Kaus – good friend of Debbie Lane – had surgery for cancer this week.
*Ken and Candy Bretl sold their house!! *Don Schroth is home from the hospital. *Mavis Carlberg is at South Suburban Hospital. *Vera Heiser is at Chateau Center in Willowbrook for re-hab.
*The Sandburg girls and boys cross-country teams are in the state meet this weekend ... along with Ruth and Keith Rinehart's son's team. Luke runs for Bremen High School. *Amanda Aronson and Brynn O'Brien both qualified for the state tournament in tennis. *Gail and Andy Mikckelson are expecting a baby ---- due in January. They, along with Craig and Linda, say "thanks" for your support of the Ronald McDonald House ----- awesome!!*

A FEW HUMBLE HAPPENINGS (please call church if you want more information)

****The men's club is doing BINGO for the veterans at the Illinois Veteran's home in Manteno, on Monday, Nov. 16. We want to bring lots of desserts ... you can sign-up for this on Sunday.
THANKSGIVING IS UPON US. We have a festive worship service on Thanksgiving morning (Nov. 26, 10:00 am). Following worship we host our friends from St. Coletta's for a turkey dinner in Charter Hall. If you would be willing to share a dish ---- from turkey to dressing to potatoes to dessert ... you can let us know Sunday. It's a very meaningful day.

****SOON OUR CHRISTMAS OUTREACH BEGINS.**

There are two major components: (1) you are welcome to adopt a person. We help 32 families, and we try to get those of you who can to adopt one or more people --- adults & kids. We'll have the names available on Sunday, Nov. 15. (2) the other part is "cash." Any monies you can donate are used to buy food and "extras" for the families. We know money is tight ... so, those of you who can ... thanks for sharing.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL is now taking an "extra offering" on Sunday --- the donations go to our friends at HEARTLAND CHILDREN'S HOME.

****We hope our ARTIST FAIRE gets a few more responses. This is simply an opportunity for you to share your "artistic expressions" with our church family. You can sell things, if you'd like ... but most important is the sharing of your gifts!! Forms are here at the church. LET'S NOT TAKE THE JOY OUT OF THANKSGIVING ... HOWEVER ... we have a few**

Advent-Christmas things coming up ...

****We decorate the church on Saturday, November 28 --- beginning at noon.**

****We have "Advent suppers" on 3 consecutive Thursdays ... followed by Advent worship. (These are special nites ... gathering around the tree!!)**

Wine-tasting party ... 7:00 on Friday, December 4

A nice adult evening around the tree. Tickets will be available soon ... \$10/person.

If you want to learn more than you need to know about wine ... this nite is for you!@!!

Have you tried out our church web-site?? ... www.allsaintsjoy.com

It has a prayer list ... the prayers from Sunday ... sermons ...

Len Wcislo and Sue Smith did lots of work, putting it together ... and Kathy Janik keeps it up-dated ... hope you enjoy it!!

BLESSINGS TO ALL!!