

A BIT OF HOPE AND JOY ... ON AN ORDINARY DAY ... IN AN ORDINARY PLACE ...

thinking about an "extra-ordinary God" ...

ALL SAINTS LUTHERAN CHURCH "Oasis of Joy" USA

13350 LaGrange Road Orland Park, IL 60462

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August 2010

Dear Friends ...

I write this humble letter ... after church has ended on Sunday ... looking forward to hopping on a plane tomorrow ... with my "airplane man" Q ... to see our new granddaughter Nova ... who, at least for now, is a "California girl."

You know as well as I do ----- you just never know where life will take us or lead us!@!!

One week ago ... I'm in the car ... driving Jude for her latest round of chemotherapy. As we are driving into the city ...

Layla and Lats are in a hospital in Los Angeles, awaiting Nova's entry into the world.

Jude and I look at each other: "Who would have thought ... one year ago ... that either of these things would be happening ... let alone AT THE SAME TIME!@!!" Within a day of chemo ... Jude is on a plane to be with our daughter.

Life is an unpredictable journey. It has so many twists and turns ... many out of our control ... lots of them laced with surprises ... a few planned, others un-planned ...

I am reflecting on the kids' sermon from this morning ... about Fred's dad "Goober."

(By the way ... did you enjoy the song "Goober Peas"???? ... oh, well ----- I was amused!@!!)

The more I think more about it ... the kids' sermon was about "me." Goooooobober is a very "busy" man. (By the way ... I don't really like the word "busy" ... I often think I use the word "busy" to make myself sound more important than I really am.)

Anyway ----- Goober runs from one thing to the next.

Always "on the move." As he does one thing ... he's thinking about what he has to do next.

He's hardly ever "in the moment." Sometimes he makes others feel uneasy ... because no one person or one moment ever has Goober's full attention.

I realize more and more ----- "the moment" is all I have.

What I have done ... well, it's over. What I have yet to do ... well, there's no guarantee I'll be there.

Come on, Don ... how about it, Goober????? ----- the "miracle" is now.

**I look outside ... and Q is pretending his bike is an airplane.*

**My pick-up truck is a reminder of all the places I've been ----- from hospital parking lots, to meeting my grand-kids on a Florida beach ... dusty farm roads and crowded highways ... a stranger's house at night, who just lost a loved one ...*

**A walk "out-back" to have "spiritual coffee" with my dad.*

**Cars going up-and-down LaGrange Road ... I wonder where they are going? Are the people inside happy? ... sad? ... together? ... loving?... is their journey one of hope and goodness??*

That "first lesson" this morning was a hoooot, wasn't it???

"Vanity, vanity ... all is vanity."

"I work and toil all my life ... and where does it get me????? ----- it's all vanity!@!!"

Well ----- our life is never in vain.

Every step we take has purpose. Every breath we share is a part of God's amazing spirit. Every day we are privileged to share is like a text-book. We can put it down and take it for granted ... *or we can learn from today's journey and plant some seeds of goodness and purpose along the way.*

I have this quote on my computer screen. For some reason ... as I sit here in the quietness of the humble temple ... these words come alive:

"The wind-storms of life put you through the tumbler. It's your choice whether you end up crushed or polished." One of my old professors said this ... guess I never appreciated how true it is.

love and joy to all ----- "rev"

PRAYER KEEPING US CONNECTED

**Doreen Wind's dad died this week ... Richard. He is at peace. *Annie Huston's' husband Don is home from the hospital. *Nancy Dierick's mom – Adelle – is home from hospital. *George and Linda Drigger's daughter Wendy is recovering from back surgery ... and Linda's sister is in critical condition. *Scott Damiani is celebrating his 70th birthday in Hinsdale Hospital ... hey, no place to be on your b-day ... let's get home!! *Don and Jude's daughter Layla and Lats have a new baby ---- Nova ... born one week ago. *Frankie Frech is having hip surgery this week ... this is a good thing!! *Robert Buikema, Sr. (Bob's dad) is going home, and will be under hospice care. *Missy Gierach's mom –Elaine—died a couple weeks ago. *Ashley Freiberg has been racing this past weekend in Joliet.*

A FEW THINGS COMING UP ... Call the office (708-448-2939) if you have any questions ...

***FUN-FESTS CONTINUE** through the month of August on Tuesday nights ... 5:30 – 7:30

***BAKE SALE** to benefit the LIVESTRONG FOUNDATION ... for cancer awareness and research. Jude's nieces (with lots of help from Jude's sister Debbie) are doing this in Jude's honor next Sunday. They will be here after both services ... with lots of goodies ... on August 8.

***WE HAVE ABOUT 50-60 SANDBURG STUDENTS PARK HERE** during the school year. The spots are full ... and our "waiting list" is too long. However, we do reserve a few spots for those of you who are church members. If you would like to purchase a spot, call Debbie Facius right away to make arrangements.

***NO FRILLS GOLF OUTING ... SUNDAY, AUGUST 15 ...** t-times beginning at noon. We are just charging the exact amount for greens-fee and cart ----- \$40. Call the church right away if you are interested. We need to let Silver Lake know by the weekend how many are coming. This is open to everyone. We are calling it "the Love Bucket Open" ...

THE CHURCH PICNIC: SUNDAY, AUGUST 29

This is a wonderful day ----- great food and drink, games for the kids.

Everyone brings something to share we provide the main stuff: drinks, burgers, h-dogs, and sausage ... we take a free-will offering. PLEASE COME AND ENJOY ... SIGN-UP ON SUNDAY.

(We are inviting "Boomer" from the Thunderbolts.)

SUNDAY SCHOOL REGISTRATION

We have classes for kids who turn 3 by September 1 ... through the 6th grade. If you have questions ... if you'd like to help ... give Kathy Ruitter a call ----- 708-218-1127. We also enjoy having high school students as helpers in the class ... so, sign-up if you are interested.

OUR ADULT CHOIR WILL SOON RESUME REHEARSALS

This is a great fun group ... with our humble director --- Mark Nussle --- at the helm. They rehearse between services on Sunday morning ... beginning September 12. Questions? ... interested? call Mark at 708-448-5830. The only qualification ----- THE JOY OF MUSIC!!

THURSDAY EVENING WORSHIP ... outdoors, weather permitting.

These informal services are very meaningful ... we always share the Lord's Supper.

We had 80 people out-back last week ... lost of fun.

REMEMBER OUR DEDICATION WALK ... and our new areas out-back.

We would like to put in one more order for bricks this summer, if we get enough interest. The costs of the bricks and the sizes are available at the church.