

**"Blessed are those who give without remembering,
and receive without forgetting ..."
ALL SAINTS LUTHERAN CHURCH
Don Borling, Pastor 708-448-2939
13350 LaGrange Road Orland Park, IL 60462
DECEMBER 2010**

Dear Friends,

A young girl leaves church ... "Is it ok if I keep the bucket, and give the money inside to someone who needs it more than me?" ... "I've had a pretty good year ... are there any youth group kids who can't afford to go on the retreat?"
And older gentleman apologizes because he can only give \$2 a week. "No apologies here, my friend ... I know what those two wrinkled dollars mean to you!!"

The ultimate gift of putting one's life on the line for our country ...

Quietly spending your time ... walking the halls of the Illinois Veterans' Home or the local nursing home ...

A 50-dollar bill in the love bucket ... 20 years on your knees, teaching 3 year olds about a loving God ...

From the artists' brush ... to the mechanic's tools ... the musician's touch ... whether it's time or money or just plain ol' raw courage and determination *giving and caring come in all different kinds of packages.*

Every year ... at about this time ... we ask each of you to consider making a financial commitment to the church.

We've tried varied approaches. Years ago ... we actually visited people in their homes. We've had meetings at the church ... we've done presentations on Sunday mornings ...

I guess we've discovered ... *THOSE WHO WANT TO GIVE WILL GIVE ... THOSE WHO DON'T WON'T ...*

And, for the most part ----- when you believe in what the church stands for ... when you feel the church is an important part of your life ... *you will do the very best they can.*

It's true ----- giving is an *inside job.*

Giving comes from the very heart of who we are.

Yes ... we need (and hopefully are worthy) of your financial support. I often feel a bit "guilty" talking about money ... since (next to the mortgage) I'm the biggest financial burden the church has!@!!

Each of you has a unique relationship to the church. Many of you aren't around that much ... which is ok. On the other hand ... for some of you ----- the church is at the very center of your life.

Most of all ----- life is about goodness and grace ... coming to light in a humble carpenter ... and hopefully radiating in the way we try to carry ourselves each day.

We need the support of each of you.

Financial. Prayers. Spirit. Time. Reaching-out. Goodness & Grace.

Whatever you can do ... in whatever package it comes ----- we thank you. We will continue to be good "stewards" of the resources you share. We won't spend what we don't have ... and we'll be upfront and honest about where your money goes. Please remember ----- if this humble place is important to you ... if you continue to want the church to reach-out to you, your family, and friends ... if we want our light to shine and the phone to ring ... then give your support and your relationship to the church a bit of prayerful thought.

For the next couple Sundays and Thursdays ... "commitment forms" will be available in Charter Hall after worship ... along with representatives of the church ... who are always open to your feedback and questions.

This is a very spiritual, sentimental, joyful, sometimes-sad-yet-hopeful time of the year.

It's a good time to come together ... maybe a good time to re-connect ...

God is good, for sure. Everyday ... "he's born-again."

luv and joy ... "rev"

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OUR CHRISTMAS OUTREACH HAS BEGUN

We are helping 32 families (115 individuals).

We have a few more folks who need to be "adopted" ... their names, etc. are in the narthex, if you'd like to stop by or you can do so on Thursday or Sunday.

We also need cash/check donations ... since we like to provide each family with a nice selection of food for their holiday season. If you won't be at church soon ... you can send a contribution to the church.

We enjoy receiving Christmas cards from you during the season. We display them in the narthex.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO DONATE A POINSETTIA PLANT FOR THE CHRISTMAS SEASON ...

forms and payment envelopes are available at the church. Plants are \$25 ... but a "Christmas angel" is keeping the cost to \$20 --- how about that???

OUR ADVENT – CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

ADVENT SUPPERS: Dec. 2, 9, 16 (Thursdays) ... 6:30 (try to rsvp ahead of time)
Advent worship at 7:30

CHRISTMAS AROUND THE WORLD

Between services on Sunday, December 19 ... we gather in Charter Hall and enjoy treats from your ethnic/family traditions. Please sign-up if you'd like to bring something.

CHRISTMAS EVE

**4:00 ----- The Sunday School leads us in a celebration of the Christmas story. If you enjoy lots of smiles and a bit of Christmas chaos ----- this service is for you!@!!*

**Candlelight worship at 9:30 & 11:00*

(After the 11:00 service is finished ... we have a brief sharing of the Lord's Supper, for those of you desiring to stay.)

MANY OF YOU RESPONDED TO OUR OUTREACH COMMITTEE'S REQUEST FOR HELPING FOLKS WHO NEED A MEAL ... A VISIT ... OR A RIDE TO CHURCH.

If you know of someone (of if you are "that someone") who needs a meal delivered ... who would enjoy a visit ... or could use a ride to church (and they don't have to be members of our church!@!!) ... you can call JANE FORD (226-0878) or you can call the church office (708-448-2939).

Reaching out ... it 's why we are here!@!!

**TO EVERYONE ... A VERY BLESSED AND SPIRITUAL
ADVENT-CHRISTMAS SEASON.**