

A BIT OF WARMTH AND GOODNESS ... at the end of a cold-tough week!!
ALL SAINTS LUTHERAN CHURCH "Home of the LOVE BUCKET"
13350 LaGrange Road Orland Park, IL 60462
Don Borling, Pastor Ministers: "all the folks"
MID-FEBRUARY ... 2010

Dear Friends,

It's Monday, late afternoon ... dateline: Charter Hall. His name is Nathan. He lives with autism ... which means, his family lives with autism, too. There's about 15 folks gathered ----- each of us with small to big places in Nathan's life. It's about giving Nathan and his family a web of support they can count on. It's about nurturing Nathan ... affirming him ... even challenging him to do more and to be "the best he can be."

I look around. The parking lot is plowed, the snow shoveled ... the lights are on, so is the heat ... the coffee perks, the room looks nice ... for another month, the bills are paid & the love-bucket has been filled ...

It's why we are here.

There are no "disabilities" here (well, there are ... but they don't define us) ... just varied opportunities to witness to the gentle power of this collision between God's spirit and the human spirit. Candles lit ... pictures on the wall ... the quiet atmosphere within ----- they all point us to a sense of community ... with Jesus at the center, with goodness in the hearts of all who enter.

The other day ... after worship ... one of the folks who helped me serve Communion ---- says to me ----- "Rev ... I love serving Communion. I'm up at the altar ... I get to see each person coming up ... and I'm stunned and inspired by the amazing diversity of folks who come to our church. This vision, of all the people gathered at the altar, it stays with me all week long!!"

Walkers, wheelchairs, limps, and struts ...

the old and the young and the in-between ...

the believers and the doubters ... the searchers and the seekers ...

the Lutheran, the Jew, the chosen and the few ...

WE ALL COME TOGETHER ... THE WALLS OF MISUNDERSTANDING COME TUMBLING DOWN ...

**and we are reminded ----- there are spaces & places ... where the power of
"goodness and grace" do make a difference.**

Speaking of our humanity ... and goodness and grace ... I've been thinking ...

Spaghetti dinner: a kind-of celebration of the human spirit ----- a gathering of "all kinds of God's people" ... bound together by a cause we all believe in ... namely, the ministry of our humble temple. Last year ... the first one without Kristie Machay and her amazing spirit and her amazing pies. This year ... no Gladys Gunnerson. So much a part of the auction seeing her limping around, making sure you paid-up before leaving. Then this spring ... can you imagine a garage sale without her and Art????

Each of us ... in our journey through this crazy world ... we have those "first times" ----- when we experience a moment without that **special someone** in our lives. Her birthday ... their anniversary ... the first Easter or Christmas ... Mother's Day, Father's Day ... the garage sale ... the baseball team your son played on ... walking through the garden she used to plant. It's in times like these we begin to *believe in angels*. You hear her voice ... you see his face ... something is going on inside of you ... and we discover: "something" about this person never dies.

It's the soul. It's the spirit. It's an everlasting "heartsong."

This is why we're here. This is why we pay the bills and keep the place lookin' nice. This is why we turn the key everyday and welcome you every Thursday nite and Sunday morning.

We need you, my friends ... everyone of you. This is your place ... it's our place together.

And there are people like NATHAN. The words may not come easy ... but he knows in his heart:

This is his place, too ... and it wouldn't be the same without him.

joy & love to all ----- "rev"

A FEW HUMBLE HAPPENINGS AND REMINDERS

**THIS SUNDAY AT CHURCH ... it's Valentine's Day ... "youth group" is having a bake sale.

ASH WEDNESDAY ... FEBRUARY 17 ... WORSHIP AT NOON AND 7:30

Lent is a special time of the year: a time of prayer, reflection, forgiveness, and goodness.

Both our services will include the distribution of ashes and the Lord's Supper. No Thursday worship on February 18. However, our regular Thursday evening schedule will continue the following week. Also ----- we have 4 Lenten suppers, beginning Feb. 25 ----- 6:30 pm, followed by worship. It's fun sharing supper in Charter Hall ... but we need to know if there is enough interest. So, sign-up if you'd like to come ... don't just assume there will be a supper. Also, let us know if you would like to help host one of the suppers.

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY

The four Wednesdays following Ash Wednesday --- focusing on the prophecies, the "7 deadly sins" (are there only 7??) and the Easter story. We always have lively discussions. But, again, it's important to sign-up to see how much interest there is.

THE SPAGHETTI DINNER AND AUCTION IS ALMOST HERE: Saturday, Feb. 27, 6:00

Please try to purchase your tickets within the next week or so ... it helps with our planning. Also, auction items are welcome anytime. The sooner the better!! This year the dinner is in memory of our friend Gladie.

We are looking for a few more gentlemen who would like to be a waiter. This involves setting up early in the day, and coming back early to seat people and serve ... ok ... it pretty much "messes up" your whole day. If you are interested, give Joe "Cat" a call (708-648-3629) or the "rev" at the church office for pre-spaghetti counseling!@@!!

A CHURCH PICTURE DIRECTORY

Now, before you moan or groan ... this will be easy and stress-free. It's being sponsored by our youth group ... and Craig and Linda Nelson. You can do one of 2 things ...

**Craig will be taking informal digital pictures by the fireplace on Sundays Feb. 21, 28 and March 7. Before church, after church, or during the sermon (ooooops!!). Just come as you are!@!! Kids included if they are with you.

**Or ---- you can leave us a family photo ... head shots or waist-up.

No pressure ... just a directory for those who choose to be in it.

We had a very pleasant ANNUAL MEETING.

We adopted a reasonable and well-thought-out budget ... elected Bruce Hillblom to the council ... and re-elected Jim Gierach and Linda Dodge. The ***offering envelopes and commitment forms for 2010*** will stay out for one more week ... then we'll assume those who are going to participate have already done so. The reason we are staying afloat and paying our bills is because of those who you who support us on a regular and consistent basis thanks for caring.

PRAYERS AND GOOD THOUGHTS

AnneMarie Murvine died this week ... her funeral is here on Monday, 11:00 Vince and Loretta Innocenti's daughter --- Donna Hawk --- died this week. Her funeral is Friday. Little A.J. Campanile was at Hope Children's Hospital for a few days, and he is home now. Joan Damiani died this week ... former wife of Scottie ... her funeral is on Saturday.

Don Schroth is being moved to Salem Village, where he will be under hospice care.

Darlene Dronzek is having treatments for brain cancer. Dylan Catalano-Wild ---- he is a TENDERFOOT as of this week.

Dawn Weyer has been in the hospital. C.R. Wirth ---- recovering well from his heart surgery.

Sandra Harneck is at Palos Hospital. Good to see Tom Wiggins, Mavis Carlberg, and Ray Kramer --- all back at church.

Kathy Clasby's brother in law (Pat MacFarlane) and sister (Beth deKruyff) both living with cancer.

*****Blessings and joy to all ... prayer keeps us connected ...
hope to see you "in the humble temple" ...***

