

It is COLD OUT THERE ... but it's warm by the "LOVE BUCKET" ...
All Saints Lutheran Church "Oasis of Joy" USA
13350 LaGrange Road Orland Park, IL 60462
Don Borling, Pastor MINISTERS ---- "all of us"

Early January ... 2010

Dear Friends,

Its seems like only a couple years ago ... I'm sharing a beer with him, at Silver Lake County Club ... talking about his round of golf. He just left this life ... after battling Alzheimer's. Seems like only a year ago ... he was winning almost every game of BINGO ... his funeral is at St. Mike's on Friday. Just a month ago we are having a philosophical discussion over coffee in my office ... he's now in critical condition at Palos Hospital. Their names are Russ ... Walter ... Charlie ...
Their common bond is ----- aging gracefully, goodness of spirit, love of family.

Part to life is learning how to say "good-bye."

I do it. You do it. But ----- I'm not very good at it.

I want to hold on to guys like these ----- who they are, what they represent. Maybe, too, it's thinking about what it means to grow "older." As our journey continues ... we say "good-bye" to more than people.
Maybe it's a sport we can't play anymore ... notes we can no longer reach ... stuff we can't do, and we used to take it all so for granted. Yes, it's part of the journey ... but it's also the part I seem to "fight" the most.

We enter a new year. And for each of us it's different. Our walk, our journey, the intersections and turns and decisions we face ----- there is no exact blueprint. So often ... in fact, too often, I try to control my life ... and then pass that "controlling-attitude" on to others. So ... last week ... I'm looking out over the ocean. Our grand-kids and Q are digging a hole in the sand. I look at my bride ... our daughter & son & his wife ...
This moment and the gentle wind remind me of what's important in life.

*The moment. The unexpected. Inner grace. A thankful spirit. The ones we love ... those who love us.
A God-given "love-bucket" with no bottom or top.*

It's time to look at things a bit differently. Instead of trying to control life ... or trying to shape it into something I want it to be ... how about ----- just letting life come to me.

When we allow life "to come to us" ... somehow we are set free ----- to take steps and make decisions that are born and grow out of the varied moments we face.

LIFE COMES TO US IN SO MANY PACKAGES ----- *painful ones, joyous ones, and lots of ones in-between.*

From losing our job ... to losing a friend ...

From making the team ... to being cut at the last minute ...

Winning and losing ... someone building you up ... another person trying to take you down ...

Cancer and Alzheimer's ... healing you never expected ...

Yes, life comes to us. And the knock on the door isn't always what we expect.

In the midst of all of this ... God calls us to live with grace and dignity. Not easy ... but no one said it would be. I take comfort ... and I hope you do, too ... in knowing: THERE IS A POWER IN LIFE ----- higher and bigger than all of us. There is a gentle carpenter ... whose sandals are invisible ... but whose footprints of love & goodness are all over the place. It's in these footsteps we need to walk ... and live ... and hope ... and dream.

It's why we're here.

It's why we care.

Its' who we are.

luv and joy to all ... 2010: "the year of the luv-bucket"

"rev"

THE PRAYERS NEVER STOP

*Bob Wiśniowicz's dad – Walter – died this week. Funeral is on Friday. *Howard (Russ) Hill died this week, too. Russ and Char and family have been going to our church for quite a while. His funeral is here on Friday. *Charlie Samec died this morning. I married Charlie and Geri about 15 years ago. His funeral will be here at the church on Monday.

*Gail and Any Mickelson ... let's hope their baby is here soon!! *Vera Heiser should be home this weekend.

*Mavis Carlberg continues to be at home. Beginning Sunday ... we'll be asking folks to share some meals for them ... to make hers and Rey's daily routine a bit easier. Meat, potatoes, casseroles ---- things that can be frozen and used when they need them. Hey, bring something Sunday, if you'd like!! *Kathy Shoher's dad --- Ken Pisanko --- died last week.

*Kathy Clasy's sister has been diagnosed with breast cancer. *Scott Mitchell is having more treatments, since his cancer has returned. He is at Lutheran General. *Kim Baike is having surgery for uterine cancer later this month.

Prayer keeps us connected ... in words, in our silence, in our caring for each other ...

****Our regular schedule** is back this Sunday --- January 10 ... worship at 8:30 & 11 ... Sunday School, Breakfast Club, and Choir between services.

A COUPLE YOUTH NOTES

***Quick breakfast, then off to our seniors at Sunrise between services on Sunday.*

***Sunday, January 24 ... off to Orland Bowl after 2nd service ... PLEASE rsvp this Sunday, so we know how many to expect.*

ADULT BOWLING ON JANUARY 31 ... 4:00 – 7:00, at the Frankfort Bowl ----- 6 lanes (which we have to ourselves) ... we share the billiards and bar with whoever else is there. \$20 per person --- includes bowling, billiards and food ... cash bar. Tickets are on sale now.

OUR NEXT BINGO IS FRIDAY, JANUARY 22, 6:30.

All monies raised goes towards our men's club outreach program.

OUR ANNUAL MEETING IS SUNDAY, JANUARY 31 ... AT NOON. Please try to come. We adopt our budget, elect council members, and review the year. It doesn't last long ... and we hope you "early service folks" will try to come back.

We will have a nice breakfast buffet between services, too.

ANOTHER NON-BEARS SUPER BOWL PARTY ----- Sunday, February 7.

LET'S TALK SPAGHETTI!!

Our annual "festival of pasta" is on Saturday, February 27 ---- 6:00 here at the humble temple. It's our biggest and most festive fund-raiser of the year. A few things:

*Tickets are \$2 less than previous years ---- \$20/person. Also ---- please don't let the cost of the ticket keep you away. It's more important to "fill the place" ... so, do what you can!@!! Tickets will be on sale beginning Sunday. One of the most fun parts of the evening is the auction ----- funny things, beautiful things, tickets to games, etc. You can begin bringing auction items any time. If you have access to an auction item ... if you have something to donate ... if you have a service to offer ----- **LET US KNOW!@!! ... we appreciate whatever you can do.**

As you know ... we have been encouraging everyone to consider making a financial commitment to our ministry for the year 2010. It's amazing what a difference it makes when everyone does whatever he/she can ... then our obligations are shared ... and we can meet the needs we have to keep our ministry alive and vibrant and solvent.

Commitment forms are here at the church. They are VERY CONFIDENTIAL. Offering envelopes are available ... and if you don't see a packet for you ... let us know and we'll provide them.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS are enclosed for many of you who had envelope numbers this past year. If you have questions regarding your statement ... give Kathy Klang a call (708-479-0588) and she'll help you. Also, if you made any special donations to the church that are not reflected in this statement ... call the office, and we can provide you with a letter.

THANKS FOR ALL YOU DO.

THANKS FOR SHARING ... AND "supporting our humble enterprise" ...

2010 --- "year of the LUV-BUCKET"

