

"A bit of joy ... some news to share ... life on LaGrange Road"
ALL SAINTS LUTHERAN CHURCH
13350 LaGrange Road Orland Park, IL 60462
Don Borling, Pastor 708-448-2939 Ministers ----- "all the people"

Relatively early March ... 2010

Dear Friends,

Lent ... 40 days ... 40 nights ...

It begins with ashes on the forehead ... the church dark, votive candles lit ...

WORDS LIKE ----- *reflection, forgiveness, being human, frailty, honesty, the cross, death ... even "new life" ...*

What does it all mean? ... what's the point? ... will my life be any different? ... am I just going through the motions again??

All Saints ... like most churches ----- we have our share of rituals and customs. From baptisms to bread & wine ... the liturgy we sing every Sunday ... kids marching up to see Fred and get their "surprise" ... the songs & coffee, styro-foam cups and love-buckets all over the place.

For some reason ----- everything feels deeper and richer this year. Communion is more than bread and wine ... I feel like Jesus is right-there NEXT TO US. The "love-bucket" goes more places ... the music soars higher into the rafters ... the water of baptism is the "water of life" ... Fred is "me," and I am "Fred" ...

There are times ... especially during the season of Lent ... when I am "stunned" by how much I don't know -----
sometimes I don't know myself,

I certainly don't know much about God,

*Life seems like such a mystery ... the unpredictability, the violence, the prejudices, the anger,
the all-too-quick judgments we make about each other ...*

I'm also STUNNED by what I have learned during this Lenten journey ... and so much of it is because of you ... because of this "humble place" ... because of some of the amazing people who have come through this door ...

**people want to care ... and they do!! ... each of us, in our own way, wants to make a difference ..*

**the power of doing good ... is so much more "powerful" and enduring than that which brings us down ...*

**those quarters and dollars and 20's and checks in the LOVE BUCKET:*

they bring so much hope and promise to people we may never even see ... but now they are "a part of us" ...

**personally ... down-deep-inside ... I'm not nearly as important as I think I am ...*

*but ----- you and I ... for those who love us, for those who need us, for those who intersect our lives ...
we can do a lot more good than we ever thought possible.*

I think of little Mattie ... his youth, his innocence, his wisdom. I think of all the "little molos" who run up to the front on

Sunday morning. I think of the "seekers" ... the "searchers" ----- who come through our door for the 1st time ... wondering if this place is for them ... wondering if anyone will notice or welcome them. I think of all those whom we haven't seen for a long time ... we wonder where their path has taken them ... and then, for some reason & by the grace of God ----
-- they come back. A "little connection" that was always there ... and they know they still have a "home."

OUR COMMON BOND is our humanity ----- fractured, imperfect, special, unique ... yes, all part of an amazing package.

In the midst of all this is "you" ... and "me" ... each of us different, yet connected in some small measure.

This past week ... I've seen both the majesty and the disappointment of being "the church." A family comes in ... and, in all honesty, they share with me ----- this place isn't for them. I guess they want something a bit more "religious" ... a message with more certainty and less questioning. It's ok ... we'll never be "the perfect church" or "all things for all people."

And then there is the "moment" I talked about on Sunday: a friend holding hands with a friend, at the moment her friend "crosses over" to the next kingdom. The power of prayer ... a church loving a "stranger" ... a community standing by someone they barely know ----- a connection sustained by God, born by our own humanity.

Lent, Holy Week ... a time of wonder and prayer and goodness ... welcome, love, and joy ---- Don

THE JOURNEY OF LENT AND HOLY WEEK

***Of course ---- worship every Thursday evening ... 7:30*

Wednesday, March 17, 11:30 ---- our "senior young at hearts" are sharing a SEDER MEAL ... sharing the traditions of the Jewish Passover. Please make your rsvp this Sunday.

PALM SUNDAY is March 28 ... regular schedule, with worship at 8:30 & 11 ... and the distribution of palms.

***The 3rd grade Sunday School has their PASSOVER/SEDER during their regular class time ... with parents.*

***3RD GRADERS AND OLDER ... first Communion class following the late service ... in preparation for your 1st Communion on Holy Thursday evening.*

MAUNDY THURSDAY ... HOLY THURSDAY ... April 1

This year we are having 2 services ----- one at NOON ... THE OTHER AT 7:30. (At the evening service, our young people receive their 1st Communion.) Both these services re-call and celebrate the "last supper" Jesus had with his disciples, the night before he died. (Nursery available)

GOOD FRIDAY ... 7 LAST WORDS

The most quiet and solemn service of the year ... a time where death points to the gift of new life.

Again ---- 2 services: Noon and 7:30.

EASTER SUNDAY IS A WONDERFUL DAY ... 3 SERVICES ...

"almost sunrise" at 7:00 (sharing the Lord's Supper)

Worship at our usual times of 8:30 and 11. EASTER BREAKFAST IS SERVED ... sponsored by our wonderful youth group ... 7:30 – 10:30. Your free-will donations are appreciated.

(If you would like to donate a plant for our Easter worship ... the envelopes and forms are at the church ... if you aren't here on Sunday ... drop by anytime.)

A COUPLE RANDOM THOUGHTS

*Many of you ask "how our church is doing" financially ... during these difficult economic times. Please take an ANNUAL REPORT, which is evidence of our very stable financial health. We live within our means ... and don't spend what we don't have. Part of it is your participation. We need each of you to do the best you can ... even if it's not as much as you would like to do.. When all of us contribute ... it's kind-of like the cup being "half full" and not "half empty." Thanks for sharing.

*A lot of you grin along with me ... when I make my comment in the bulletin on Sunday ----- "we enjoy having kids in church ... but when they are noisy and restless ..." I love kids with all my heart ... I enjoy the energy they bring to our service ... but I also know how important quiet and respectful worship is to so many of our folks. Thanks for understanding and working with me on this Sunday mornings together are a precious gift.

****The spaghetti dinner** was amazing ---- fun, energetic, a lot of work for lots of people ... 360+ tickets sold. "Joe Cat" and company ... along with all of you ----- thanks for sharing. Many of you donated tickets so others could come. We took in \$20,000 ... we spent \$3000 putting it on ... our church is the recipient of \$17,000 profit. We are humbled and grateful.

*One of our quiet – humble members died this week ---- **Don Schroth**. His visitation and funeral will be Thursday and Friday at Fedde-Helfrich in Peotone. If you'd like details, call the church office. *John Ristic's brother and Elfrida Ristic's son died last week in Texas ---- **Danny Ristic**. *Elmer Heuer is recovering at home. *Jane Clark is home from the hospital. *Dan Johnson (Pat Johnson's son) has been at Palos Hospital. *Darlene Dronzek continues her journey with cancer. *Dan Schloegel is having back surgery this week. *Todd Hoffman (Debbie Ferrero's brother) needs a bone marrow match, since his diagnosis of leukemia. *Linda Ingenoso is having surgery this week. *Joan DeCarlo continues her re-hab at Lemont. *Ed Janik is having hip-replacement surgery next week. *Gunny Marheine ... dear friend of Dorothy Eckberg ... died this week.

There are many more prayers and needs ... let's keep the connection going.

If you have any questions about events on the calendar ... please call the office.

THE NEXT TWO SUNDAYS ... AND ON THURSDAY ... please, please take a moment to get your picture taken by the fireplace. This very "informal and relaxed" directory will help us keep in touch better. If you want ... you can bring a picture to the church ----- your participation is important.

