

A FEW NOTES AND MUSINGS FROM A HUMBLE PLACE

All Saints Lutheran Church "Oasis of Joy" USA

13350 LaGrange Road Orland Park, IL 60462

Don Borling, Pastor "all the folks" ----- ministers

Beginning of May ... 2010

Dear Friends,

The grass looks greener today ... the breeze feels softer ...

The flag waves with more pride than ever before.

For a change ----- I'm not in a hurry. Unfinished business? ... a task un-done? ... a wrinkle in an ordinary day???

It's ok. Life isn't about perfection ... or control ... or pleasing everyone around you ...

Life is "life."

It's moment by moment ... moment after moment ... strung together by touches of love:

love for each other ... and the incredible love coming from "beyond" ...

And the "church"???? So many of them around ... so different ...

Often measured by performance ... who the minister is ... how big ... how many ... how much ...

It feels different today.

It's a "human casserole" ... the ingredients are varied ... and yet held together by something both simple and special.

A man holding hands with his son in the 4th row.

A "stranger" kneeling at the altar for an extra long time.

Someone who's been a "member" for 40 years ... making sure "the new guy" doesn't feel alone.

The wide-eyed four year old ... with dollar-store gift in hand ... shaking hands with Lillie,

whose "walker" keeps her steady.

There are many times ... in life ... when I don't "get it."

Any one of us can be pulled in all kinds of directions ... "places" we really don't need to go -----

fueled by our own agendas ... our fears and anger at stuff we can't control ...

It happens ... we're human ... "more human" than we'd like to admit ...

But today: the birds are my "choir."

The dandelions bring me back to the child-like joy of dancing in the middle of nature's miracles.

At least for now ... I do "get it."

But then I'm reminded ----- it's not so much "getting it" ... as it is being humble and gracious enough "to receive it."

"It's a long and winding road" ... and when it seems too long ... and the "turns" are what we least expect ...

the **moments along the way** become the soil from which angel-voices grow.

Gifts abound.

Love and angels ... voices and whispers of the spirit ----- they grace our path.

The grass is green ... the flag whips in the wind ...

Along the way ... a church or two ----- door open, coffee on ... ordinary folks, touched by the

strength and power of an un-ordinary spirit.

love and joy to all ...

"rev"

A FEW NOTES ... A FEW HAPPENINGS

support and goodness

This is the time of year when lots of you will probably spend less time in church. Vacations, long weekends, baseball, and the peace of working in your yard ----- they call. And they should ... spring and summer are "change of pace" times. My only hope is that each of you will continue to support our humble ministry ... even if you are not here as much. Also --- remember: our services change to 8:30 & 10, beginning Memorial Day weekend. And ---- we have Thursday evening worship throughout the year ... and weather permitting, we'll be outside.

This Sunday ... May 2 ... the choir sings at both services ... and we have a guest soloist ... looking forward to it.

On Mothers' Day ... we have our annual PLANT SALE ... Bob and Linda Buikema from Every Bloomin Thing have wonderful "hanging plants" and gift certificates ... and our YOUTH GROUP makes a little money.

ON MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND ... Sunday, May 30 ... we we have our annual remembrance of veterans who have served our country. Also ---- after the 10:00 am service, we will dedicate our new veterans' area ----- beautifully designed by Jim Melka ... and it's in loving memory of his parents.

COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE here at the church ---- Saturday, May 15. The gift of blood is precious ... please call the church office or sign-up on Sunday if you have the time to donate and are healthy enough to do so.

TWO THURSDAY NITE SPECIALS!!

*On Thursday evening, May 6 ... we dedicate our worship to "moms" ... and we'll have a reception after worship.

*On Thursday May 27 ... our evening worship includes our "2nd annual" BIKE BLESSING ... in loving memory of Patrick Mackey. It's an inspirational evening ... and Patrick's family invites everyone to Ryan's Pub in Frankfort afterwards.

SUMMER TUESDAY EVENINGS AT THE CHURCH

In mid-June ... we begin our weekly barbeques/picnics for our developmentally disabled friends from St. Coletta's.

We have hosted these for at least 20 years. Also throughout the summer on Tuesday evenings ... we are having weekly 4-on-4 basketball games ... from 7:00 – 9:00 PM. This is for young men and ladies in our church ---- 7th grade and older. You form a team of 4 or more ... and we'll make our gym rock every Tuesday night. T-shirts, refreshments ... and the joy of "friendly competition." Stay-tuned!!

We are putting together a brick order ... so, if you are interested ... try to fill out your form within the next week or so.

The forms are at the church with cost, etc.

Indicate, too, if you'd like someone's name to be in our veteran's area.

THE POWER OF PRAYER

**Mavis Carlberg is home ...after having by-pass surgery last week. *Jude has begun her journey of chemo-therapy. Your prayers ... your calls and letters ... the power of your spirit ----- it is all so healing and refreshing.*

**Barb Bach is recovering from shoulder surgery at her daughter's home. *The Huston's grandson Conner is very ill at Children's Memorial Hospital. *Jean Hornick ... one of our "senior young at hearts" has been at Palos Hospital.*

**Jane Clark has been having tests. *Dave Mitchell's aunt --- Tina Lea – is in hospice care. *Sandy Dirker's uncle --- Norm Nelson --- died last week. *Marge Park's brother-in-law – George Park – has been diagnosed with lung cancer.*

**Mary Faulk is recovering from a broken knee-cap. *T.J. Petry built a bridge at Lake Katherine, as a part of his Eagle Scout journey ---- way to go!! *Sam Ruiter is recovering from a broken leg.*

**Keith Reimel's brother – Stanley – died on Wednesday ... his funeral will be Monday.*

BLESSINGS AND JOY TO ALL ----- "see you in the humble temple"