

"HERE I AM, LORD ... SEND ME"
(I think I've heard a song with those words in it!@!!)
ALL SAINTS LUTHERAN CHURCH "Oasis of Joy" USA
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Early September ... 2010

Dear Friends,

It was literally an EXPLOSION of goodness, grace, and love.
A "human casserole" ----- together in a gym ... nothing separating us ... joy & goodness the main ingredients.
Our developmentally disabled adult friends ... and their counselors ... from St. Coletta's ... they came here 120 strong ...
full of smiles ----- to thank us for another year of hamburgers and friendship and open doors.
We gave them all hats ... with the words: I LOVE ST. COLETTA'S ... yes we do, and they love us back.

There are no barriers here ... and there shouldn't be.
Whether you come in for coffee on a Tuesday ... or bring a friend to worship on a Thursday or Sunday ...
need a place for a funeral for an aunt who never went to church ...
you want your 8th grader to be confirmed ... but he's never been to church before ...
you live in a group home and you have trouble stringing 3 words together ...
HERE ... WE ARE ALL GOD'S CHILDREN ... or, as it says on the side of our red-hat give-away:
"we are all God's goofs"

This Sunday is kind-of like the beginning of "the church year."
Summer is fun around here. The pace is slower ... the air in church is "relaxed" ---- now, Don, what
does that mean??????? Oh, well ... it's just a feeling.
Now ... supposedly ... the place "fills up" ... everyone is back ... church is part of my routine again.

As I move into my 37th year here ... as I look at the pictures of my family in my relatively small-humble office ...
as I hear the sounds of joy and laughter from last Tuesday ... as I walk up-and-down our dedication walk out back -----
the names, the dates, the flags, the memories & spirits ...
I am reminded anew ----- "we are the body of Christ." Special ... humble ... far from perfect ... wrinkles and struggles
along the way ... as varied as the human spirit ...
We walk in the sandals of a carpenter ... so human, so divine, simple and majestic ----- bringing folks together,
knocking down barriers, calling us to give and share without recognition or fanfare.
We do it ... just because it's who we are.

My hope ... and maybe even a little challenge to each of you ... let's all give life and this church your very best.
Maybe you don't come very often ... maybe you can't come ... maybe you've "drifted away" a bit ----- hey, it's all
part of the rhythm of life. For many of you ... this place and being here ----- it's at the very heart of who you are.
Most important ... we have as good-decent place here on LaGrange Road ... we do some "good stuff."
In the midst of these uncertain and often-painful times ... we need to stand strong and stand together.
Your support ---- prayerfully, financially, spiritually ... it keeps us going ... it keeps the doors open and the phones ringing ...
"Here I am, Lord ---- send me."
Lord, I don't always know where I'm going and where "you are sending me" ... but the journey is worth it.

Joy,

Don

THIS SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12 ... A LOT OF "STUFF" BEGINS ...

**Worship at 8:30 & 11 *The adult choir begins rehearsing at 9:30 ----- thinking about joining this festive group ... they welcome new voices. *Sunday School beings ... 9:45*

**The youth group and Uncle Wayne are having breakfast for all in Charter Hall, between services.*

**Youth group and parents meet downstairs to talk about the upcoming year.*

A BIT OF OUTREACH

***Hair-cuts for Danny Host ... a young friend of the Perez family, who is battling a brain tumor ... September 12 (10am-3pm) ... at Mia Rose Salon, 8600 W. 159th St. Phone number ---- 708-460-5015.*

***The love bucket on Sunday is dedicated to a good friend of the Klang family ... who has a small business that employs folks living with Spina Bifida ... and also to helping Audrey Borling's inner-city cross country team get uniforms.*

SPEAKING OF OUTREACH

Our first BINGO of the season is Friday, September 17 ... doors open at 6:30 ... first call at 7:00.

Great adult evening, sponsored by our men's club ... and all the money we raise goes towards their outreach program.

It's sure is fun helping people. And ... if you know of someone with a need we can support ... please let us know!!

**Just got word that the South Suburban Family Shelter for Domestic Violence Victims (Sharon Mannix is very involved with this) ----- their "food pantry" is pretty empty. They need non-perishable food items and paper products (not baby food) ... so, we'll have a table in Charter Hall for your donations.*

THE BOOK CLUB RESUMES, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 7:00

They meet here at the church ... usually in a Sunday School room in the back. What a wonderful group ... and they welcome new folks to join them. A schedule of the books they are reading is always available at the church.

Questions? ---- call Nancy Ellis ... 815-557-3440.

CONFIRMATION RESUMES IN OCTOBER ...

Registration forms for our 7th-8th graders are at the church. We have a student-parent meeting on October 4, 7:30 here at the church ... and our first class is Monday, October 17. As a part of our worship on September 19 ... 17 of our young people will be confirmed as adults members. Please come and support them ... and ----- it doesn't make our 11:00 am service much longer than usual!@!!

BIBLE STUDY IS BACK!@!! ----- "Proverbs" ... beginning in October.

6 Wednesdays, 7:00 ... October 6 – November 10.

"The good doctor" (Craig Nelson) does a great job ... makes it fun ...the discussions are amazing.

You can begin signing up this week.

JUDE'S ART CLASS

We'll see if there is interest. It will be on Mondays ... 5:00 – 6:30. First session September 20, at the church.

For young people 5th grade and up. If you are in confirmation ... you can just stay for class afterwards. Light-healthy snacks provided. The only cost will be for any supplies you may need. Please sign-up ... or call the church office ...

we want to see if there is enough to begin a class. Questions? --- call Jude at 708-955-8184.

MOVIE NIGHT ONCE A MONTH ... NEXT ONE IS TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28.

The movie and restaurant will be posted in the bulletin and on the website mid-month. If you have suggestions or questions, please contact Nancy Diericks (708-460-7559) after 6 PM ... or you can call the church office anytime.

SPIRITUAL YOGA IS BACK

Kathy Ruiten resumes weekly classes on Wednesday, September 8 ---- 7:00 – 8:15 at the church. The \$10 per class fee includes a donation to the church. Questions? ... call Kathy at 708-218-1127 or you can e-mail

angelguard00@sbcglobal.net.

OUR ANNUAL BURGEOO IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER --- Saturday, October 9, 5:00

This is a wonderful adult evening at the Carlsen homestead in Frankfort. The burgoo ----- a stew cooked over an open fire.

Gathering around the fire ... sharing their beautiful rural home ... it's a special nite. Please make your rsvp soon.

We all bring a side-dish or dessert to share ... and we share the cost of the main dish and drink. Thanks, Roger and Judy, for hosting this every year.

Hope to see you Sunday ... drop in for coffee ... "share the love" and help make the world a better place!!

