

New year ... lots of love ... a touch of peace
ALL SAINTS LUTHERAN CHURCH "OASIS OF JOY" USA
13350 LaGrange Road Orland Park, IL 60462
Don Borling, Pastor "all the people" ---- Givers of goodness

January ... 2011

Dear Friends,

Time for a quick visit ... I was thinking. Just a short "hello." He's not a member ... but an incredibly good friend to some folks in our church. A bit older than me ... much better looking. I did a wedding for one of their kids. Then one day his life changed ... his family's, too.

A stroke. Hospital ... re-hab ... more re-hab. Many of you have been there. Those things we take for granted everyday ----- talking, eating by ourselves, getting up, walking, upstairs & downstairs ... and you wonder to yourself: *will I ever do this stuff again???*

I'm in his room ... I look at my watch ... thinking: well, better go ... gotta be somewhere. His therapist comes in ----- "Lee, time to try going up stairs ... just 3 stairs ... let's go."

I'm thinking about going to my next stop. Lee looks at me: "Don, want to come and see me try?" Shame on me. I'm thinking about where I need to be next ... Lee is looking at going up one stair for the first time in 4 months.

I go with Lee. I sit there and watch him and two physical therapists climb 3 stairs. He gets to the top, he comes back down ... he looks at me with a weary smile. I look at him ---- "Lee, I'm exhausted just watching you ... congratulations ... the marathon has just begun!@!!"

Life is a marathon.

Your marathon has its own course ... each of ours is unique.

Too often I am consumed by my own journey. I have a schedule ... my day is mapped-out ... but then something or someone comes along. It's too easy to walk the other way ... claim to be "too busy" ... and move-on to what's next on our agenda.

I'm glad Jesus doesn't do that.

From leper colonies ... to kids who felt left-out ... sinners "on the other side of the tracks" ... a woman at the well, whose friends had deserted her ... even you and me today, in our moments of weakness and loneliness. Somehow ----- Jesus takes time ... it's almost like he welcomes the interruption.

As I sit at my desk this morning ... Lee is trying to climb those steps again. He works hard to finish his sentences ... he works to regain feeling in a body that used to move so freely. His "marathon" is different than mine.

But ... through the grace of a loving God ... through the spirit of a humble carpenter ... through a message we share whenever we come together on Thursday or Sunday ----- our journeys *become one.*

Who knows what today will bring. Like each of you ... yes, I have a schedule.

In the midst of this we all have a precious gift to share ----- *our time.*
Yes, for everything there is a season ... a "time" for every matter under heaven.

luv and joy to all

"rev"

Our new year has begun. Many of you have made your financial commitment for the new year. We all know how important it is for each of us ----- to do what we can ... to help us meet our financial obligations for the coming year. Never ... ever ... do we take what you do for granted. There is still time to make a commitment, if you haven't. Also, your offering envelopes are now here. If you need some --- just let us know.

Personally ... on behalf of Jude and our entire family ...

thanks for all you do for us. Your generosity at Christmas ... your kindnesses throughout the year ... they fuel our soul. I hope ... as your pastor ... I continue to be worthy of all the goodness you bring to us. Working with you and for you ---- continues to be an honor and privilege. I see all you have been through ... I see how my wife Jude carries herself ... I'm reminded of how my kids and their spouses and friends, and our grandkids ----- have been so nourished by being a part of this community ... thanks for all your caring and sharing.

50 years ... how about that????

Most of you received an invitation to our 50th anniversary dinner ... to be held Sunday, January 30, 4:00 PM, at Silver Lake County Club. If you did not get one ... please call the church or drop by the office anytime. We'd like everyone to come. This is for youth group age (7th and up) and adults ... and we have a limit of 250 spaces. So, please respond right away. We are putting together a booklet. If you'd like to write as brief "something" about All Saints ----- a remembrance, a thought ... please get it to us right away. Bring it Sunday ... or e-mail: allsaintsjoy@sbcglobal.net

A FEW HIGHLIGHTS THIS MONTH

**Our next BINGO is Friday, January 21, 6:30. Please sign-up. Sometimes we have to cancel because of weather or low turn-out ... so, rsvp this Sunday ... or you can call the church. This month ... half of our money raised will go to the CHOIR YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP FUND ... and the balance for our men's club outreach.

**OUR RE-SCHEDULED VISIT TO THE ILLINOIS VETERANS' HOME in Manteno is Wednesday, January 26. We need DESSERTS ... and also a few folks to join us ... as we play bingo with our veterans. Sign-up Sunday!!

**OUR ANNUAL MEETING to adopt the budget and receive reports for the coming year is SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 6, at noon. Please make an effort to come.

**OUR ANNUAL SPAGHETTI DINNER is not far away ---- Saturday, February 26. We have to keep tickets sales to no more than 300 (it's about safety and the fire-code) ... you can begin buying tickets this week. As always ... we are looking for auction items ... if you have something, a service, an opportunity for the auction ... please let us know as soon as possible.

****CARE-GIVERS SUPPORT GROUP.**

Many of you have expressed interest in getting together occasionally ... to talk about what it's like to be a care-giver to someone you love in your family. Many of us are in a position of caring both for kids or grandkids and, at the same time, for aging parents. We would like to meet once-a-month on Sunday, after church. You can sign-up at church anytime.

****On Thursday, January 20, 7:30 ... we have our annual worship with our Methodist** brothers and sisters. Faith United Methodist Church is now located at the corner of 151st St. and 80th Avenue. I know it's not convenient worshipping elsewhere ... but they have a new location and new minister ... and it's their turn to host the service ... so, please try to come if you are able.

BLESSINGS AND JOY TO ALL!!

