

HAPPY LENT ... IS IT OK TO SAY THAT????
ALL SAINTS LUTHERAN CHURCH "OASIS OF JOY" USA
13350 LAGRANGE ROAD ORLAND PARK, IL 60462
DON BORLING, PASTOR 708-448-2939 MINISTERS: EVERYONE!!

EARLY MARCH, 2011

DEAR FRIENDS,

"It's been a long and winding road ..." ----- and now it's LENT.

I'm looking forward to Ash Wednesday ... quiet Thursday nights ... saying the 23rd Psalm and listening to spirit-filled piano music in the background. I need to look at the cross ... feel the quiet spirit of healing and goodness, coming from a humble carpenter ...

I long for moments of peace ... in an often harsh and chaotic world ...

Something that doesn't cost much ----- in a world of \$4 gasoline ... and yet a gift so priceless ... that an amazing God ... lets go of his son ... so we may know the depths of his love and forgiveness.

LENT. SPRING. ASHES.

It's a humbling time of the year. Being reminded ... in the end ... we are all "ashes."

We go back into the earth ---- from whence we come.

Yet ... there is more. Ashes are the soil ... from which our spirits grow. All we stand for ... the way we carry ourselves ... the stories and memories we share ----- they never die.

It's called resurrection ... new life ...

My hope is ... as we enter this very sacred and fun time of the year ... as we count the days to Jesus' death on the cross ... and then celebrate Jesus' incredible "return to life" ----- this all needs to speak to what you go through. It needs to MAKE A DIFFERENCE in the stuff you face every day.

This humble oasis on LaGrange Road ... it's a special place ... 'cause you are special people. It was one year ago ... when my bride Jude was diagnosed with cancer. As most of you know ---- it's a word that changes your life. In the past year ... we have laughed and cried and cherished each moment. You have reached-out in prayer and goodness ... and it strengthens and sustains us. I've always known Jude to be a strong and gracious person ... but her walk through this past year has made me appreciate miracles and moments like never before.

And how about you???? Parents and grandparents ... aunts and uncles ... re-hab and soccer games ...

long days at school ... trying to figure out what "I'm going to do when I grow up" ...

money and the lack-thereof ... jobs and un-employment ... Alzheimer's and another 12-step program ...

YOUR JOURNEY IS UNIQUE ... no one else has one like it.

When you walk in the door of our church ... you bring your journey with you. When what we do and say here speaks to your journey ... you'll come back. You are the reason we are here ... your path and journey are sacred & precious & irreplaceable.

I think of the words of the prayer this past Sunday. "The older I get ... the more I see ... the less I know."

But ... I do know this: WE NEVER WALK ALONE. The ashes this week remind me of that.

luv and joy to all,

"rev"

**LOTS OF PRAYERS. THERE ARE MORE THAN JUST THE NAMES HERE ...
PRAYER KEEPS US CONNECTED.**

3-YEAR OLD CONNOR RUISZ has a long journey with chemo ahead of him ---- at Children's Memorial. Your prayers and generosity mean a lot to his family. **NOLAN MURRAY** is now in hospice care ... our thoughts go out to Marie and family. **ED O'MALLEY'S MOM VIOLA** died last week ... we had her funeral here last Monday. **MARGE PARK'S MOM JANICE** continues her re-hab at Lexington. **MIKE O'MALLEY'S MOM BARBARA** is very sick after surgery in Florida. **MARY O'MALLEY'S MOM HELEN** has been at Palos Hospital. **SHARON ANDERSEN** continues to recover at home. **KEN BLOCK'S GRANDSON CHARLIE** is still in intensive care at UIC. **JOE CATALANO'S MOM GENEVIVE** is having heart surgery this week. **LINDA DODGE'S MOM SANDY** is recovering from heart surgery. **LINDA INGENOSO** is recovering from hip surgery at Christ Hospital. **SANDY HARNECK** continues to live with cancer at home. **JEREMY AND AUDREY BORLING** had twin boys on Valentine's Day ----- Lucas and Jonah. **LAURA SPARKS** is at Palos Hospital. **LAURIE CZUBERNAT'S AUNT JUDY** died this week. **ANNE STEELE** is joining the "knee replacement club" next week. **BRUCE FREDRICK'S MOM** is recovering from a heart attack.

ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP THIS WEEK, MARCH 9 ... NOON AND 7:30

We will share the Lord's Supper and the distribution of ashes. NO THURSDAY WORSHIP THIS WEEK.

WORSHIP EVERY THURSDAY NITE RESUMES MARCH 17, 7:30.

We are having refreshments after worship on Thursdays during Lent. If you are willing to help provide these on a Thursday evening ... please sign-up at church ... or give us a call at the office.

OUR NEXT MEN'S CLUB SPONSORED OUTREACH BINGO IS FRIDAY, MARCH 18.

Doors open at 6:30 ... "first call" at 7:00. A great adult evening ... and a good cause.

OUR BIBLE STUDY IS COMING UP ... WEDNESDAY EVENINGS, 7:00 ... BEGINNING MARCH 16.

Great discussions and learning ... as we focus on the Book of Revelation, the Judeo-Christian tradition, and the Easter story.

FIRST COMMUNION CLASS FOR 3RD GRADERS AND OLDER ... WHO HAVE NOT YET STARTED TO RECEIVE THE LORD'S SUPPER.

Sunday, April 10, after 2nd service. At least one parent needs to attend with their son/daughter.

First Communion service is on April 17 (Palm Sunday), 2:00.

THE ANNUAL LADIES' NITE OUT ... FRIDAY, APRIL 15 ... TICKETS AVAILABLE SUNDAY.

YOUTH GROUP RETREAT ... FRIDAY-SUNDAY, APRIL 1-3.

Information is here at church. You must fill out registration form and make a \$20 deposit. Feel free to call the office if you have any questions.

OUR ANNUAL SPAGHETTI DINER WAS A WONDERFUL EVENING ... SO MANY OF YOU MADE IT POSSIBLE ... by buying tickets ... donating auction items ... helping out. The "auction crew" was amazing, spending so much time putting it together ... Joe Cat's crew and the men's club ---- lots of hard work. We made a profit of \$15,800 ----- which certainly helps the on-going ministry of our church.

Yes, these are "tough economic times." And we have discovered ... when each of us does what he/she can ... the shared giving and caring ----- it keeps our doors open and makes All Saints a happy-and-comforting place to be.

A BLESSED LENT TO ALL OF YOU!!