

"A DASH OF HOPE ... IN AN UNPREDICTABLE WORLD"

All Saints Lutheran Church "Oasis of Joy" USA

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(Reminder: this Sunday our schedule is --- worship at 8:30 & 11 ... with Sunday School, choir, and youth breakfast club in-between. Also, breakfast in Charter Hall this Sunday ... 9:30 – 10:45 ...)

EARLY SEPTEMBER ... 2011

Dear Friends,

I've always enjoyed "doing" the newsletter. A chance to share a few thoughts ... keep connected ... especially with those of you I don't see very often. I'm sure ... in whatever "line of work" you are in, or used to be in ... there are certain things making you feel a bit inadequate. Each month I go through the mailing labels ... to see who's still here, who isn't, who may have moved. And then I wonder ... where is he? ... what happened to her? ... is there a need I or the church didn't meet???

I think to myself: maybe I didn't do enough? ... did I or the church "drop the ball" somewhere???

You know what it's like ... in life.

You can have 99 satisfied customers ... but at the end of the day ... all you're thinking about is the one who is not happy!@!! This isn't hard to understand. Remember Jesus talking about the shepherd who couldn't find the one sheep out of his herd of 100???? ... and he wouldn't relax until he "found" the one who was lost. The shepherd could be Jesus ... and ----- the shepherd could be you or me.

Each of us has a journey. And like we've so often said ----- nobody knows what it's like to walk in your shoes. Our journey is always a "casserole of the human spirit" successes and failures, right turns and wrong turns, things done and things not done, people we enjoy and people who drive us nuts. There comes a point ... at the end of the day ... when we need to look in the mirror and into our own heart ... and simply say: "enough."

Yes, I've done my best in the race ... and, for now, I need to stop.

Whatever I didn't get done today ... it will be there tomorrow.

As we look back to what happened 10 years ago on September 11th ... as we have seen all the struggles our country has faced and continues to face ... as we dig deeply into our own "heart-songs" and try to bring purpose and hope into our own unique journeys ----- the best "memorial" we can give to those who have gone before is this: *"to commit myself to being a person of peace and a beacon of hope."*

I know ... as you know ... there are lots of people who come into our lives, and leave our lives ... and we don't always know why. Certainly ... as much as we try ... we can't be "all things to all people."

But ... if and when we can bring a little peace into the soul of one other person ...

if and when we can bring a bit of hope to one other person who is struggling ...

well ---- this is why we are here.

Thanks for all the bits of goodness & grace ... you bring to this place.

luv and joy ----- "rev"

“OUR FALL SEASON” begins Sunday ... September 11

Sunday School in the gym ... youth group and “Uncle Wayne” are serving breakfast ... choir rehearsal begins ... and the Bears’ season kicks-off!!

THE FOLLOWING SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18 ... 21 of our young people are being confirmed into adult membership at 11:00. Confirmation doesn’t add a lot of time to the service ... so, please come and share the joy and pride these young people bring to our ministry. Of course, we have our regular 8:30 service.

EVER BEEN TO A BURGOO???

It’s a wonderful, fun, peaceful evening at the homestead of Roger and Judy Carlsen in Frankfort ----- the setting is very inspiring. We bring a side-dish to share ... pitch-in to cover the cost of the main dish and drinks ... and enjoy the “burgoo” ----- a hunter’s stew, cooked over an open fire. They have hosted us for some 30 years, and we still don’t know what’s in the stew. A great adult evening ... Saturday, October 8, 5:00. You can begin making your rsvp this Sunday.

WE HAVE AN INCREDIBLE BOOK CLUB.

This month they are meeting at noon on Saturday, September 17 ---- at the Pickwick Tea House in Frankfort. Limited tickets ... so rsvp by September 12th to Nancy Ellis ... 815-386-4932.

HOW ABOUT SOME BINGO.

The Men’s Club sponsors this about 4 times a year. All the proceeds go to our men’s club “outreach program.” Over the years we have done “some good stuff” with the money ... it’s not a lot ... but it counts!@!!

Please sign-up soon for a fun adult evening ----- FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 23 ... DOORS OPEN AT 6:30.

YOUTH GROUP

After breakfast this Sunday ... we’d like to meet with you and your parents in the basement ... to talk about our plans for the year. Also ---- THE YOUTH GROUP is sponsoring the re-cycle bin. They are donating the proceeds from this effort towards the cost of our new roof. Our kids are GIVERS!! (By the way ... the recycle bin is for newspapers, magazines, office and school papers, shopping catalogs, and mail.)

SPEAKING OF OUR NEW ROOF

Most of you know ... we are replacing the roof over the gymnasium. The roof should be completed by the time you get this letter. Some of you have asked ----- how are we coming on getting our mortgage paid off? ... does the cost of the roof affect this? We are still on pace to be mortgage-free within the year ... and, as of now, we have money to pay for the roof. The council will review all this at our next meeting ... and give you an update towards the end-of-the-month. In the meantime ... your continued support ---- financially and spiritually --- makes all of this possible.

PLEASES NOTE THAT CONFIRMATION CLASSES BEGIN SOON.

We have a parent-student meeting for all 7th and 8th grade confirmation students on MONDAY EVENING, SEPTEMBER 26, 7:30 ... at the church. Classes begin in October (usually every-other Monday) ...

Mondays, October 3 & 17 ... 7:15 – 8:30.

A FEW PRAYERS

A couple “fun church weddings” this month ---- Saturday ... Kenny Kozik and Heather Janik. On September 24 ... Robin Jost’s niece – Ashley Gillen – is being married to Dan Cook. And also on the 24th ---- Allison Manning and John Kosich are being married. This Sunday we are baptizing Al and Joann Holverson’s granddaughter --- Gianna. We pray for Jackie Chmieleski’s sister Patti ... she has been hospitalized because of her cancer. Frankie Frech just finished her last round of radiation ... she sends her “thanks” for all the rides. David Clough is still rehabbing full-time. Great seeing Dave, Sue, and kids back in church!! Connor Ruisz is home for now ... his last round of tests came back GOOD!! Mike and Jane Clark are new grandparnets --- Presley ... son of Stephanie and Bob. Jude’s “numbers” are good ... feelin’ strong.

For all those affected by 9-11 ... all the courage, love, and generosity of spirit ... we pray, we care.