

Building Bridges To God



Through the Cross of Christ

EQUIPPING THE SAINTS

November 2009

The Newsletter Ministry of All Saints Lutheran Church



ALL SAINT'S ANNUAL QUILT SHOW

Friday and Saturday,
November 6th and 7th
9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Large Display of Quilts
Arts & Crafts Sale
Quilt Drawing
Bake Sale

Lunch Available
Free Admission

From Your Pastor.....

At a meeting of pastors new to the Northwest Ohio Synod, this question was asked:

“How fast - or slow - should you push for change in your new ministry setting?”

Here's what I've learned about change in the church: ***Very rarely is change embraced...yet change is a necessary part of healthy and faithful living.***

Jesus had a lot to say about change. Witness his words to *Nicodemus* (John 3) or the well-to-do *young man* (Mark 10) who treasured his wealth more than treasure in heaven. The truth is, Jesus didn't come into the world to affirm the *status quo*, but to *change it!*

Still, we all tend to hold on to the familiar and resist the new. It's in our nature. Is there anything you can do to make change a little less painful (and maybe even come to *appreciate* it)? Of course! Here are some suggestions:

- * When facing something new in the church, **take a deep breath and try to see the larger picture.** While it may truly seem as though individuals and groups in the church may be 'pushing their agenda' with no regard for others, it might just be that the Holy Spirit is at work in the process, moving every one forward, toward an outcome that finally will be a blessing to the entire world. We see the *moment*; God sees *eternity!*
- * Remind yourself that ***you are not the center of the universe; God is.*** Are *my* likes and dislikes (or yours, for that matter) more important than God's plan for creation and the church? I truly doubt it! Jesus seemed to understand that; witness his prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane: *“Father, I really don't want to die on a cross...nevertheless, not my will, but yours be done!”*

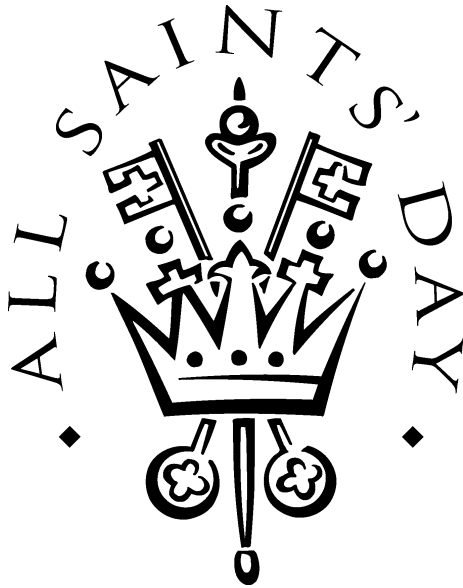
At All Saints, we've gone through some pretty traumatic changes in the last couple of years. Some folks have left this church because *they* didn't like the changes (and some, I suspect, left because the changes they desired didn't happen). How can we *change the system*, so this pattern doesn't keep repeating itself?

- * ***Adopt the belief that God has called you here,*** that your very life within the context of this community of believers is something that God desires. You're here for a reason. You have spiritual gifts that this congregation needs, as we seek to act faithfully together in the world. Just as God has called me here to be your pastor, so also God has called you to live out your faith in the midst of this church. Believe it! You are important here.
- * ***Understand that we don't all have to agree on everything in order for God's work to be done!*** *Martin Marty*, the well-known Lutheran pastor and teacher, draws a good distinction between *belief that* and *belief in*. Our faith is defined less by the specific things *that* we believe (certain doctrines), and more by our *belief in* Jesus Christ, the Lord of the Church. *Belief in* Jesus allows for a difference of conviction on some things, and creates 'room' for people with different faith convictions to have some dialog (through which God's Spirit might change us all).

So...*how fast - or slow - should change happen here at All Saints?* Again, I doubt very much that we can all agree on that, so bear with me as change inevitably happens. And on November 1, **All Saints Sunday**, add your name to the list of those who are willing to commit themselves to this adventure (All Saints Lutheran Church) for the next 12 months. Together let's see what our gracious, loving God can do among us and in us!

Pastor Rich

HEAD'S UP!



Sunday, November 1, isn't very far away, and we've got some important news to share about this date:

First of all, it's "All Saints Sunday," which given our church name, ought to make it doubly special. On that Sunday we'll begin celebrating the Lord's Supper weekly, in keeping with Jesus' command ("do this often, in remembrance of me") and in keeping with the tradition of the church from the very beginning. For the first Christians, a Sunday worship experience without the sacrament would have been like Thanksgiving without the turkey and football for us today - strange, to say the least! So we're returning to an ancient and precious tradition that somehow managed to get lost over the centuries. So you know, the majority of ELCA congregations now celebrate the Eucharist weekly. We're in good company!

Also, this coming All Saints Sunday gives each of us an opportunity to publicly renew our membership here at All Saints Lutheran Church. As part of our annual stewardship ministry, you'll be invited to recommit yourself as a member for the next twelve months.

Why twelve months? Simply because your *place* here, your *membership*, your *partnership* in the gospel of Jesus Christ, is too important to take for granted! Each and every member of this congregation is precious and valued, and this will be an opportunity for each member to publicly affirm that our ministry together is indeed precious and valuable to all of us, and then to renew that commitment annually.

Here's what we're going to invite you to do: During our worship that Sunday (Nov. 1), you'll be given an opportunity to sign a membership covenant (printed below). Then, every year on All Saint's Sunday, you'll be asked to affirm that covenant again. Shut-in members, and those who live far away or are traveling that day, will have an opportunity to sign also. Our goal is to include everyone who is currently a member of All Saints!

This renewal ceremony will also help us keep our membership records up-to-date. Those who don't treasure their membership here simply won't bother to recommit; we won't have to spend precious time and resources each year 'tracking down' our 'lost' members. If at any time they return to active worship with us, they'll be welcomed back with open arms.

As always, I welcome your questions and comments. Feel free to get in touch with me about these matters or anything of importance to you. I look forward to hearing from you!

Pastor Rich

"Happy are they who walk in the way of the Lord!"

-Psalm 89:15

I am pleased to be a faithful member of All Saints Lutheran Church, and hereby commit myself to continue faithful to God and to the ministry of my church for the next twelve months.

ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY, 2009



Which Advent should we celebrate this New Year?

Since Advent is the celebration of Christ's "coming," and Christ is the kind of savior who keeps faithfully appearing and reappearing despite the world's distraction and faithlessness, the church is given the wonderful task of celebrating at least three 'advents' or comings this season (beginning Sunday November 29: *past, future, and present*).

- * His *nativity*; his first coming in a humble birth in Bethlehem;
- * His *parousia*; his second coming at the end of time; and
- * His *daily* coming; his real presence in Word and sacrament.

In the incredible 'busyness' of the season, the church has an opportunity to say the larger culture in which we live: "We live by faith ... in confident hope ... in anticipation of *the fulfillment of all God's promises*."

Could you use a message of hope and faith these days? Do the people you live with, work with, care for struggle to make sense out of God's various 'comings'? Then *Advent* needs to be your season!

Join us in Sunday worship beginning November 29, and plan now to take part in our Wednesday evening Advent devotions, beginning December 2. Think 'soup and sandwich,' 'brief devotion and prayer,' and something creative with our hands. Details to follow!

PEARL VALLEY CHEESE FUNDRAISER

Please enter the total number of 12 oz. pieces and give the orders to Bonnie Driver (419-389-0142) or turn into the church office before October 27 or November 8. Cheese will be delivered November 1 and 15. Please make checks payable to All Saints. All packages of cheese are vacuum-sealed and will last for several months in the refrigerator. Remember to order plenty for the holidays. This year the proceeds will help defray the cost of the Drive Through Living Nativity.

Name _____

Phone Number _____

	# Of pieces	Cost per Piece		Total cost per item
Mild Swiss	_____	\$3.50		_____
Colby	_____	\$3.50		_____
Marble	_____	\$3.50		_____
Baby Swiss	_____	\$3.75		_____
Lacey Swiss	_____	\$3.75		_____
Sharp Cheddar	_____	\$4.25		_____
Extra Sharp White Cheddar	_____	\$5.75		_____
Havarti	_____	\$4.25		_____
Pepper Jack	_____	\$3.50		_____
Horseradish	_____	\$3.50		_____
Mozzarella	_____	\$3.50		_____
Summer Sausage	_____	\$4.50		_____
Trail Bologna	_____	\$4.00		_____
Total Order				\$_____



Lady Saints

Sixteen ladies enjoyed breakfast and fellowship on October 10, 2009 at 9:00 AM at the church. Those attending were: Laura Myers, Donna Jean Stockmaster, Mary Lou Houle, Kathy Yarger, Gretchen Schultz, Barb Mougie, Sue Merkel, Ann Miller, Marilyn Gabriel, Rose Thomson, Eloise Way, Wilma Lupe, Lynda Myer, Pat Toepfer, Judy Grimes, and LaVerne Bussdieker. President Sue Merkel opened the breakfast with Donna Jean and Sue giving a dialogue of the Lord's Prayer for the devotions. Hostesses were Judy Grimes, Rose Thomson, LaVerne Bussdieker and Mary Lou Houle.

Barb Mougie read the Secretary and Treasurer's report. The Quilt Show will be November 6 & 7 with Gretchen in charge of the various things to be done. Kathy Yarger agreed to see that the sleeves for the quilts will be finished. Mary Lou and Ann Miller will be in charge of the Bake Sale. Barb Mougie announced \$2710.00 was additional kitchen costs.

Ann Miller moved to give \$50.00 to our LSS family for Thanksgiving and the motion carried. Our offering was \$43.00 today.

LaVerne Bussdieker will be the President as of January 2010 with Mary Lou Houle and Sue Merkel to help in the meantime. Marilyn Gabriel said she would be Secretary-Treasurer after this meeting.

Kathy Yarger said she would like to take over the December meeting herself. Thank you Kathy!!

Mary Lou Houle read a letter regarding Redeemer Lutheran Church and the sad situation they are in. No action was taken on this.

There will not be a Lady Saint's meeting in November because of the Quilt Show.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Gabriel,
Secretary

ALL SAINTS ANNUAL QUILT SHOW-BAKE SALE

All Saint's Annual Quilt Show
Friday and Saturday,
Nov. 6 & 7
9 -3

For those who would like to donate baked goods for our Quilt Show, please bring them to the church kitchen by Nov. 5th, if not sooner.

The Quilt Show-Bake Sale has always been a huge success, as well as the lunch we serve. So get that apron out and put those baking mitts on--and let's get baking! We can't do this without your help! Thank you in advance for all you do.



Dear Lady Saints and All Saints Members:

Thank you for your prayers and for the soft blanket. I still have a long road to recovery but I am doing much better.

Thanks again for your prayers and
God bless.

Julie Yarger

Poinsettia Sale



The Christmas holiday season will be here before you know it. As we have done in the past, we are having a Poinsettia Sale. Poinsettias may be purchased for the Altar to be displayed for the holiday and/or you may purchase them for your home.

Please fill out the form enclosed in this month's newsletter and turn it into the office along with your check made payable to All Saint's.

Please note, on the order form there are two lines in which you may dedicate the flowers to honor or remember a loved one who has passed away. As we have done before, the Poinsettias purchased in this way will be posted in our Christmas Eve bulletin.

**Order
Deadline is
Wednesday, Nov 18.**



ECUMENICAL BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP



**Tuesday, November 3, 2009
7:30pm-9:00pm**

**St. Patrick of Heatherdowns
Emmaus Room**

**4201 Heatherdowns Blvd.
Toledo, Oh**

title: Remembering & Reaching Out

**speaker: Susie Waible-Rose
Bereavement Team from St. Rose Parish**

**Remembering our loved ones and sharing stories
of their life, can be comforting to us. Memories are
an important part in our recovery and healing.
We need to reach out to others to help us with this part
of our journey.**

**Our mission is to offer support to people who are
grieving the death of a loved one. With caring support, we
provide spiritual, emotional, and social comfort.**

**contact: Rita Hoff 419-724-4675
rita.hoff@toledostpats.org**

**sponsored by: St. Joseph Parish, St. Rose Parish, St. Paul's Episcopal,
St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran, St. Luke's Hospital,
St. Joan of Arc, St. Patrick of Heatherdowns**

Council Meeting Minutes for September 17, 2009

All members were present except Bob Krueger

Tim Merkel called the meeting to order at 7:05 and Mary Lou Houle lead devotions.

Secretary minutes were approved as written.

Treasurer's report: Things continue to look good and we are still holding our own. Thanks to the congregation for their financial dedication.

President's report: Tim has received several cross training/spiritual opportunities. He will forward this information to all council members and encouraged us to attend them. He also noted that he felt that the Homecoming event was a big success.

Pastor's report: Pastor Rich thanked all who helped and worked to make the Homecoming event a big success. He reported that total expenses were about \$2,700.00. He recommended that we make this an annual event and council agreed.

Pastor requested a week of vacation on November 23-29. He will take care of getting a supply pastor for that Sunday. Request was granted.

Committee reports

Worship and Music: No report

Property: Tim reported that the church has had several request for usage of the church. This will be referred to the Property committee and a possible request for be made available. It was noted that there are several coffee stains on the carpet in the SS wing due to AA spilling coffee and not cleaning it up. This will also be referred to the Property committee.

Nurture: Coffee hour will be reinstated on the 2nd Sunday of each month beginning in October.

Men's Group: Going well

Lady Saints: Will have a meeting on October 10.

Old Business:

Taking care of visitors was discussed and we will continue to follow up with visitors.

Communion feedback: It was noted that the new format for communion went as well as expected and Pastor will look at purchasing another chalice so we can serve the wine on both sides of pastor and speed up the communion.

Kitchen is done and looks very nice.

New Business:

Trunk or Treat event was discussed and will possibly be on the afternoon of Halloween.

Rose Thomson asked about several of the various funds. It was discussed and explained that to re-designate them it would take a congregational event. This will be referred to the finance committee.

Sue Merkel has been cleaning out the Sunday School cupboards. Thanks Sue!!

Meeting closed with prayer and adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Bonnie Driver
Secretary to Council

Council Retreat Motion

At the Council retreat on Saturday June 13, 2009, Pastor Rich recommended that we shorten our mission statement to "Building Bridges to God through the Cross of Christ."

This was discussed and a motion was made by Ted Beitelschees to shorten our mission statement as previously noted. It was 2nd by Bonnie Driver, all members approved this motion. Motion carried.

DATE	Nov. 1	Nov. 8	Nov. 15	Nov. 22	Nov. 29
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10:00 AM

ACOLYTE	Samantha Merkel	Isabelle Merkel	Samantha Merkel	Isabelle Merkel	Samantha Merkel
COMM. ASSIST.	Rose Thomson	Ted Beitelschees	Tim Merkel	Judy Grimes	Mary Lou Houle
GREETERS	Eloise Way	LaVerne Bussdieker	Norm & Sue Merkel	Ann Miller	Jim TerDoest
LAY READER	Gretchen Schultz	Rick McCann	Norm Merkel	Dave Driver	JimTerDoest
USHERS	Ralph Fritsch	Ralph Fritsch	Ralph Fritsch	Ralph Fritsch	Ralph Fritsch
	Tim Merkel	Bob Krueger	Jim Ter Doest	Bill Reber	Tim Merkel
	Hassan Brown	Hassan Brown	Hassan Brown	Hassan Brown	Hassan Brown
MEDIA	Don Sundby	Don Sundby	Don Sundby	Don Sundby	Don Sundby
SOUND	Mike Okoneski	Mike Okoneski	Mike Okoneski	Mike Okoneski	Mike Okoneski

OFFERING	Rose Thomson	Tim Merkel	Mary Lou Houle	Bob Krueger	Mary Lou Houle
ALTAR	Ann Miller	Ann Miller	Ann Miller	Ann Miller	Ann Miller
COMM. SET-UP	Rose Thomson	Ted Beitelschees	Tim Merkel	Judy Grimes	Mary Lou Houle
COUNTERS	Rose Thomson	Mary Lou Houle	Ann Miller	Mary Lou Houle	Rose Thomson
COUNTERS	Marilyn Gabriel	Carole Johnson	Pat Toepfer	Carole Johnson	Marilyn Gabriel

** If you are unable to be here on the day scheduled, please try to switch with



11/2 Heidi Driver

11/20 Tom & Gretchen Schultz – 44 yrs

11/4 Hal Houle

11/7 Katie Krueger

11/9 Sue Weaner

11/17 Bill Reber

11/20 Alex Both

11/21 Norm Merkel

11/23 Tom Stokes



If we've missed your Birthday or Anniversary this month, please notify the office so we can correct our records.

All Saints Lutheran Church
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