

Building Bridges To God

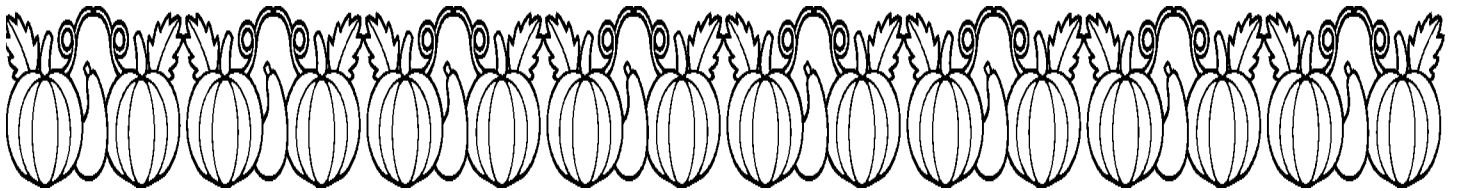


Through the Cross of Christ

EQUIPPING THE SAINTS

October 2009

The Newsletter Ministry of All Saints Lutheran Church



Lady Saints Meeting
Saturday, October 10th
9:00 AM

Coffee Hour starting back up - Second Sunday of each month. Join us for the first one this fall, Sunday, October 11th after worship. Sign up sheet is on bulletin board... please sign up to help with the next two.



**ALL SAINTS LUTHERAN CHURCH
ANNUAL QUILT SHOW
COMING SOON !!!!**

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

From Your Pastor.....

I'm impressed with the fact that our church has taken the time to write down our *Core Values*- those underlying values that shape our ministry. Do you know what they are?

- B**iblically based
- R**elating to our communities
- I**ntentionally serving
- D**evoted to prayer
- G**race-filled worship
- E**quipping ministry
- S**piritually transformed

According to Bill Easum, a respected church-grown expert, there are certain values that define a healthy church. Compare his list with our core values. A healthy church is:

“Biblically grounded, culturally relevant, exists to transform lives, mobilizes and equips the laity, is built on trust, and is structured to grow disciples.”

See the connections here? There are quite a few similarities, actually, between these two lists. Of course, *knowing* what we value and actually living out our values are two different things (how many diets do you know of, and when's the last time you've seriously tried to lose weight by following one?). So we keep that list of core *values* in front of us, and we remind each other of what the church needs to be doing, always.

This fall, we've made a special ongoing effort to reach out to the community around us. We offer several weekly Bible studies; we pray each time we gather (and by ourselves, individually also). I think our worship is truly *grace-filled*. We genuinely care about others, and look for ways to serve them in the name of Jesus Christ.

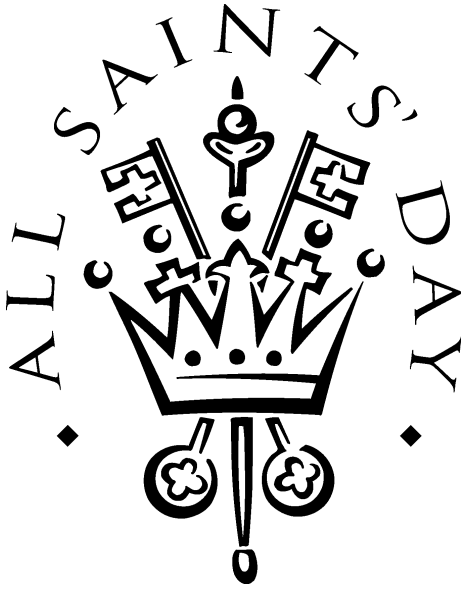
Thank you for all you do. It's important, not just for our congregation, but for Jesus. This month we'll continue our *Homecoming* focus (a week of Sundays), with special classes, stimulating worship, and the other activities that keep us focused. I ask you to continue to pray for the success of our ministry...and to continue to support what we do together. And I would remind you all of the importance of being here, and inviting friends and neighbors to join you.

Enjoy the fall weather...and the friendships we enjoy at All Saints!

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

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Churchwide Assembly 2009 Review

Churchwide Assembly 2009 will be remembered for dealing with tough issues and stormy weather.

In all, there were 1,045 voting members registered at the Church-wide Assembly. The members tackled the difficult subject of human sexuality as they voted 676—138 to adopt a Social Statement on Human Sexuality. Later in the week, they voted to adopt four task force recommendations regarding ordination of individuals involved in same—gender, publicly accountable, monogamous relationships.

The proposed social statement was drafted by a task force. An initial draft was released in 2008. Following discussion and comments from throughout the church, the draft was revised and a proposed social statement was released in February 2009. The document was reviewed by church leaders and transmitted by the ELCA Church Council to the Churchwide Assembly. A two-thirds majority vote is required to adopt social statements in the ELCA.

“Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust” addresses key Lutheran principles about human sexuality by:

- taking a stand against sexual promiscuity and nonmonogamous, casual sexual relationships;
- opposing cohabitation outside of marriage;
- strongly condemning child pornography;
- expressing that marriage is between a man and a woman;
- attacking society's view of promiscuous sexuality as normal and inconsequential;
- stating that, as God's people, this church has high expectations for all its members in regard to their sexuality; and
- acknowledging strong disagreement among this church's members about their understanding of homosexuality and the Biblical call to ministry.

The four ministry recommendations proposed by the task force also were adopted.

The Assembly voted 771-230 for a resolution asking members of the church, in making decisions on the recommendations, “to bear the burdens of others and respect the bound consciences of all.”

The Assembly voted 619—402 for a resolution committing the church to find ways for congregations and synods that choose to do so to receive, support and hold publicly accountable, lifelong, monogamous, same—gender relationships.

The Assembly voted 559-451 for a resolution committing the church to find a way for people in such publicly accountable, lifelong, monogamous, same—gender relationships to serve as professional leaders in the ELCA.

The Assembly voted 667-307 for a resolution providing congregations and synods with structured flexibility in decision making so that they may choose whether or not to approve or call people in publicly accountable, lifelong, monogamous, same gender relationships to serve on ELCA rosters.

Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson complimented Assembly members for their effort and civility in the midst of a difficult debate.

“I am deeply grateful to you for your preparation, your patience, your commitment to this work and for your good spirit,” Bishop Hanson said.

During the third day of the Assembly, storms struck the Twin Cities metropolitan area, including a potential tornado that damaged the steeple atop Central Lutheran Church across the street from the convention center where the Assembly was being held.

Assembly members gave \$8,561.87 in the following day's offering to be given to Central Lutheran in response to the storm dam-



ECUMENICAL BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

**Tuesday, October 6, 2009
7:30pm-9:00pm**

**St. Patrick of Heatherdowns
Emmaus Room**

**4201 Heatherdowns Blvd.
Toledo, Oh**

title: Freddie the Leaf

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

**Freddie is a Maple leaf. Daniel is a larger leaf.
Daniel has a deeper understanding of life and death.
He helps Freddie understand the phases of life
with death and letting go.**

**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 Minutes for August 20th, 2009

All members were present except Bonnie Driver.

Tim Merkel called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

Ted opened with devotions. Council voted to shorten devotions from 15 minutes to 10 minutes. Each council member was asked to sign up for doing devotions at an upcoming council meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Ted reported that the finance committee feels we are in fairly "good shape".

Pastor's Report: We received a thank you from Redeemer for the gifts given by the congregation and its members. Pastor discussed the Homecoming and that invitations will be sent to over 5100 households encouraging them to attend the tailgate party at All Saints. Many aspects of the Homecoming were discussed. These included ministry displays, the band, games, prizes, prayer groups for the 13th, and two additional Sunday school teachers for the following weeks starting on September 20th. Pastor also discussed two adult classes he would like to have including a parenting program on the early years and God is Closer than you think program. There would be a communion walk thru at the end of council.

President's Report: Tim suggested opportunities for events such as cross training that are coming up.

Worship and Music: Moving forward with wine on September 6th. Making sure we are visiting visitors and making them feel welcome! Looking at a traditional service which could be at Wolf Creek. Dates are not yet settled, this would allow us to extend All Saints ministry there. Birthdays were suggested to be announced during the service.

Property: Received needed monies for the resurfacing of the driveway. Thanks to Chris and Jim for helping with the driveway. Lighting estimates are still being gathered. New shed estimates are in the range from \$2000 to \$8000. This would allow the older shed to be moved to the back and utilized for storage of DTLN and the manger scene and give more space to clear out clutter in church. Kitchen is still being worked on but it is hoped to be completed soon.

Finance Committee: Council accepted the changes in the endowment policy wording.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM and closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted by,

Tim Merkel
Council President

DATE	Oct. 4	Oct. 11	Oct. 18	Oct. 25
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10:00 AM

ACOLYTE	Samantha Merkel	Isabelle Merkel	Samantha Merkel	Isabelle Merkel
COMM. ASSIST.	Mary Lou Houle		Bonnie Driver	
GREETERS	LaVerne Bussdieker	Marilyn Gabriel	Pat Toepfer	McCanns
LAY READER	Jim Burkhardt	Dave Driver	Amy Merkel	Barb Moungie
USHERS	Ralph Fritsch	Ralph Fritsch	Ralph Fritsch	Ralph Fritsch
	Bob Krueger	Tim Merkel	Bill Reber	Tim Merkel
	Hassan Brown	Hassan Brown	Hassan Brown	Hassan Brown
MEDIA	Don Sundby	Don Sundby	Don Sundby	Don Sundby
SOUND	Mike Okoneski	Mike Okoneski	Mike Okoneski	Mike Okoneski

OFFERING	Rose Thomson	Mary Lou Houle	Tim Merkel	Judy Reber
ALTAR	Sue Merkel	Sue Merkel	Sue Merkekl	Sue Merkel
COMM. SET-UP	Mary Lou Houle		Bonnie Driver	
COUNTERS	Rose Thomson	Mary Lou Houle	Ann Miller	Mary Lou Houle
COUNTERS	Marilyn Gabriel	Carole Johnson	Pat Toepfer	Carole Johnson

** If you are unable to be here on the day scheduled, please try to switch with someone and/or call the office. Thank you.

ALTAR FLOWERS FOR OCTOBER ARE GIVEN BY.....

<i>Oct. 4</i>	<i>Open</i>
<i>Oct. 11</i>	<i>Stockmaster</i>
<i>Oct. 18</i>	<i>Reber & Hosman Family</i>
<i>Oct. 25</i>	<i>Lupe</i>





- 10/1 Jared Okoneski
- 10/3 Brian Whitacre
- 10/5 Helen Nation
- 10/6 Nancy Whitacre
- 10/9 Ralph Fritsch
- 10/11 Janet Caskey
LaVerne Bussdieker
- 10/13 Don Baacke
Ted Beitelschees
- 10/15 Delores Pratt
- 10/18 Dorothy Grove

No Anniversary's listed this month



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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www.allsaintstoledo.org



2009 Newsletter