

Grace Note, October, 2009

Letter from the Pastor

By now many of you have heard of the actions taken at the ELCA National Assembly in August. At that meeting a social statement, *Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust*, and four recommendations on ministry policies were adopted.

Three of the four recommendations are as follows (in the order they were adopted):

Resolution 3: *Adopted by a vote of 771-230 [as amended](#): “Resolved, that in the implementation of any resolutions on ministry policies, the ELCA commit itself to bear one another's burdens, love the neighbor, and respect the bound consciences of all.”*

Resolution 1: *Adopted by a vote of 619-402: “Resolved, that the ELCA commit itself to finding ways to allow congregations that choose to do so to recognize, support and hold publicly accountable lifelong, monogamous, same-gender relationships.”*

Resolution 2: *Adopted by a vote of 559-451: “Resolved, that the ELCA commit itself to finding a way for people in such publicly accountable, lifelong, monogamous, same-gender relationships to serve as rostered leaders of this church.”*

Resolution 4: *Adopted by a vote of 667-307 [as amended](#): This resolution called upon members to respect the bound consciences of those with whom they disagree; declared the intent to allow structured flexibility in decision-making about candidacy and the call process; eliminated the prohibition of rostered service by members in publicly accountable, lifelong, monogamous same-gender relationships; recognized and committed to respect the conviction of members who believe that the ELCA should not call or roster people in committed same-gender relationships; called for development of accountability guidelines; directed that appropriate amendments to ministry policy documents be drafted and approved by the Church Council; and urged that this church continue to trust congregations, bishops, synods and others responsible for determining who should be called into public ministry.*

The reaction to these changes has varied from overwhelming joy to overwhelming grief. Good Christian people all across our country disagree on this issue, and it has proven to be divisive.

Our Bishop, Elizabeth Eaton, has shared some thoughts with leaders and congregations. I wanted to share a few of her words here:

Many have asked what these actions mean for them and for their congregations. Let me explain what will not happen. Members, rostered leaders and congregations will not be forced to recognize same-gender relationships, call rostered people in same-gender relationships, or preach or teach in contradiction to their bound conscience. The synod will not – and cannot – mandate who a congregation calls as a rostered leader. Rostered leaders and congregations

that disagree with the actions taken by the churchwide assembly will not be regarded as anything less than faithful, valuable partners in the gospel.

Basically the question for the ELCA is this: Can we live together in the midst of disagreement? Can we allow congregations to make up their own minds on these issues and still consider them brothers and sisters in Christ even when there is disagreement?

I believe we can as long as we remember what binds us together is the fact that we are Christ's body in the world. It is faith in Christ that is the one issue that is not negotiable. We can discuss human sexuality, Biblical interpretation, and ethical issues, but none of them defines us in the way our relationship to Christ does.

I know that there are many in our congregation who do not agree with the decisions the ELCA has made. I want to invite you now to come to me with any questions or concerns you may have. I would be glad to spend some time with you to unpack your feelings.

I also know that there are many in our congregation who welcome these decisions as long overdue. I invite you to share your feelings and thoughts with me as well.

We were the body of Christ before the vote, and we are the body of Christ after it. Let's communicate and work on our disagreements together as a congregation in an atmosphere of respect and love. We are all saved by Grace. Let's share that Grace with each other.

In Christ's name,
Pastor Fox

WORSHIP NEWS!

This Fall we will be trying something new in our worship schedule. We will be holding **GUITAR BASED WORSHIP SERVICES** at two services a month.

These services will follow our traditional liturgy and use mostly our traditional hymns, but our accompaniment will be the guitar. This adds a slightly different flavor to our regular Sunday worship. This is a slight change, but it allows us to reach many who have called for this type of service.

On the 2nd Sunday of each month the 8:30 service will be guitar based. On the 4th Sunday the 11:00 service will be guitar based. This allows people who like this style to attend two services a month (if you are willing to switch worship times once a month). If this isn't your favorite, you have the option to avoid it entirely.

In October we will be having the guitar service at 8:30 on October 11th. We will not be having a guitar service on the 25th of October as this is Reformation Sunday. "A Mighty Fortress" pretty much requires an organ!

This guitar based option allows us to open ourselves to a bit less formal style, while at the same time honoring and participating in our Lutheran heritage. We look forward to seeing you on Sunday!

PLEASE PRAY for Jim Makee, Jr., Lisa Perry, Diane Drotleff, Rick Quellmalz, Eloise Lecy, Jay Imel, Carol and Nils Pearson, Beth Kaplan, Phyllis and Lawson Anderson, Barbara Budzinski, Adam, Alma and Fred Fanto, Jack Ferree, Murawski Family, Jeremy, Margurite Gardner, Gladys Elliott, Ann Marie Grossman, Robert Kalvesmaki, Linn Chan, J. D. Sidley, Debra Harachick, Ralph & Adeline Duncan, David & Donna Friedman, Paul & Neefa Fielitz, Michael Sraj, Chase Evans, Pam Stepnick, John Lane.

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

1	Justin O'Connell Linda Krahl	14	Shaun Csumitta Kelly Lucas
2	Susan Milner		Loren McDicken
3	Kyle Roth Kurt Treu	15	Leah Fox
4	Jack Kuster Herb Scott	18	Kristen Argo
5	Kelsey Csumitta Lisa Perry	19	Stephanie Lamb
7	Bethany Hassink	20	Joseph Miele
8	Julie Meyer	22	Palmer Moore
11	Lynette Trentini	23	Sal Perez
12	Pastor Fox Kari Jennings	24	Bailey Swartz
13	Jason Argo Vaughn Wingfield	26	Cheryl Velotta Jen Butler
		27	Vince Cannata Brian Jackson
		29	Erica Hassink
		30	Lana Beucler
		31	Stephen Trier



MESSIAH MEN'S LUNCHEON



THE MEN'S MONTHLY LUNCHEON will be on Friday, October 23rd at noon at Milano's Restaurant located at Cuyahoga County Airport on Richmond Road.

ARTHRITIS FOUNDATION MARATHON

Lorie Marsalis is still seeking sponsors for the Arthritis Foundation Marathon. The deadline is early November. If you are able to help, please see Lorie at church or call 440 442-5931.

FAITH CIRCLE will meet on Thursday, October 15th at 12:00 Noon. Please bring a sack lunch. Dessert will be provided by hostess Emilie Quellmalz. Pastor Fox will lead a Bible Study. All women are invited.



THE PROPERTY COMMITTEE will be planning a **FALL WORK DAY AT MESSIAH** at their meeting on October 6th.

OUR THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE for New Covenant Hunger Center is October 11 – November 15. Please bring non-perishable food. A table will be located outside the conference room in the rear entrance

Dear Messiah Friends,
I am so extremely grateful to you for the many cards and notes, beautiful flowers, visits to the funeral home and church, and sympathy and love shown to me and my family in many ways as we lost my daughter, Barbara Hengesbach. Please know how comforting it is to me to know that you care at this unspeakable time.

Peg Ager



LITERARY LADIES OF MESSIAH will hold their next meeting on Tuesday, October 12th at which time they will discuss *Divas of Damascus Road* by Michelle Stimpson. According to the book jacket, she is one of the most vibrant and daring new voices in Christian fiction. The story is about three very different women bonded by faith, family, and a world of trouble....with only one way to turn their lives around. Come join us.

LOOKING FOR A TENANT AT MESSIAH

The Lyndhurst Cooperative Nursery School is no longer in operation. If anyone knows of a group that would like to rent space at Messiah, please let Terry Trentini or Pastor Fox know.

THANK YOU so very much to the following people who contributed the special music this summer to enhance our summer worship services:

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| Nancy Durst | Ruth Kenny |
| Lisa Halberg | Irene Rogner |
| Corinne Halberg | Laurene Pride |
| Bailey Swartz | Bonnie Voigt |
| Alison Griffith | Elise Hassink |
| Vicki Lester | Nancy Pittard |
| Tom Griffith | Andrea Schneider |



CHRISTMAS TOY COLLECTION

Our annual collection of toys at Christmas for New Covenant will begin November 1st through December 6th. Plan to bring in new or gently used toys.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Kids Helping Kids is collecting items to place in shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child. Items can include anything that can fit into a shoe box: Crayons, markers, colored pencils, pencils, pencil sharpeners, scissors, small notebooks, erasers, paints, hard candy, tooth brushes and tooth paste, soap, small toys, etc. Bring items to church and place in the Operation Christmas Child bin located near the children's mail-boxes.

Day of Remembrance and Prayer for Peace
Sponsored by
Cleveland Lutheran Veterans Club
Sunday, November 8, 2009 at 3:00 PM
Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd
8235 Memphis Avenue
Brooklyn, Ohio 44144

All veterans who have served in our Armed Forces will be honored. Pastor Fred Grimm, Commander, USN, (Retired), will preach. Please join the Cleveland Lutheran Veterans Club for this worship service and stay for the reception to follow.

Sunday School News
October, 2009

Worship Participation: On October 18th the youth will participate in the 11:00 worship as follows:

- Beginner Department will serve as Greeters and sing
- Grades 2-4 will Usher and sing
- Grades 5-8 will be Readers
- Grades 7-12 will help supply and serve coffee

Trunk or Treat: Come join us on October 24th from 5:00 - 8:00 p.m. for our fun-filled Trunk-or-Treat! There will be goodies, games, prizes, crafts and more goodies! Children will be trick-or-treating out of the trunks of vehicles so decorate your trunk in its Halloween best. There is a \$5.00 cover charge per vehicle; the funds will be used for our Christmas family. If the weather is bad, we will set up our games and fun inside!

Emergency Forms: If you haven't turned in your child's emergency form to the office yet, please do so as soon as possible. If you need another copy, just ask anyone in the Sunday School office for one. It is important that we gather this information on each child to keep on file.

HOSPICE OF THE WESTERN RESERVE

Hospice of the Western Reserve addresses the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of seriously ill people and their families. Committed and passionate volunteers allow us to care for thousands of patients and their families. A few hours of your time will make a world of difference for our neighbors. Pick up groceries, read a story, plan a party, address envelopes, play games, write a letter, share a smile, bake cookies....these are just some of the ways volunteers contribute. Our next volunteer education begins at Hospice of the Western Reserve, 19201 Villaview Road, Cleveland, 44119 Wednesdays starting October 7th through November 18th beginning at 9:00 a.m. until Noon. If you are interested in attending, please call The Volunteer Team 216 383-3731.

EXCERPTS FROM MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 15, 2009 COUNCIL MEETING

Pastor's report: In August there were 6 home visits, 3 hospital visits and 11 office visits. Pastor reports that the new ruling allowing gay and lesbian people in committed publically accountable same sex relationships to be pastors in the ELCA has had some repercussions across the country. There will be a discussion of the new ruling during Sunday School on Sept. 20. The Bishop is also having meetings around the Cleveland area.

Treasurer: see written report

Property: The boiler work is done. Gail Patton is working on covers for the pipes. The playground was tilled and weeded and will be mulched.

Christian Education: The Sunday School calendar has been set for the year. Teachers will meet 9/19 to prepare classrooms and have CPR training.

Youth: First meeting will be 9/20 at 7pm to set the schedule for the year

Worship: will meet 9/20

Evangelism: goals are to increase membership on the committee. The focus this year will be on how everyone is welcomed to Messiah.

Social Ministry: 57 customers for Angel Food. Fair trade orders will be taken 9/20 and 9/27

Stewardship: will meet 9/24

Fellowship: Picnic was wet and cold but attended by 70 and a lot of fun. Patterson's will be 10/4 side dishes and deserts are needed.

Finance: Budgets from all committees are due to Karen Dlugosz by September 30. The budget will be presented to council in October.

Garden produced over 27 pounds of produce. Deliveries were made to the Heights hunger center and to Angel Food.

The 2009 Congregational Meeting is set for November 22. The slate for new officers and the budget must be to council for October 20.

A day for all committees to meet and review their calendars will be set for January

We would like to advertise our space for rent (former pre-school area). We need a few members to review applicants (council president/ financial person/ legal advisor) We will put a notice in the bulletin first.

WELLNESS NOTE

What to do about Swine Flu

The *H1N1* virus, also known as “Swine Flu,” has quickly spread around the world. A new vaccine for this virus should be ready this fall. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that the following groups get the vaccine first:

- Pregnant women
- Parents and others who care for children younger than 6 months of age
- Health care workers
- Children and young adults 6 months through 24 years of age
- Adults 24 through 64 years of age who have certain long-term (chronic) medical conditions

Ask your doctor about steps you can take to protect yourself against the *H1N1 flu*. More information is also available from the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services at www.flu.gov.

DocFind helps you know more – in less time!

The more you know, the healthier you can be. That’s why DocFind has new features to help you search for the doctor who’s just right – for you!

DocFind offers more powerful search tools, which save time in your busy day. The main search results page is easier to quickly review. Plus, extra information about each doctor is displayed in a clearly marked column – for your convenience. This tells you the programs a doctor may participate in.

But that’s not all. DocFind now shows you which doctors accept Medicare and Medicaid. And DocFind lets you know when doctors are (or are not) board-certified in their medical specialty. Try our improved version of DocFind now!

Source: September 2009 Aetna Newsletter

Submitted by: Peg Wilt and Kathy Strom, Wellness co-chairpersons,
Nancy Coleman, Secretary

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Lyndhurst OH 44124

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October 5, 2009