



The Eagle

February 2010

St. John United Lutheran Church
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Pastor's Message

Each year, the season of Epiphany invites us to "see" the God made visible in Jesus and Jesus' ministry with new eyes - to see God in the midst of the ordinary and to understand the mission of God in fresh ways. In a two weeks we will celebrate Transfiguration Sunday, the last Sunday of the Epiphany season, when Jesus goes to a mountain top with three of his disciples and is transfigured before them – a glimpse of the glory that is beyond his death and resurrection. The following week, beginning on Ash Wednesday, we will descend with Jesus and the disciples back into the valley, on the road to the cross.

I encourage us to take some of that "light" from the season of Epiphany with us into Lent. Can Lent be a time when we use that light to see ourselves as we are – as children of God yet also in constant need of God's mercy and renewing grace? Can we use that light to look around at our world and see that it also belongs to God yet is in profound need of the transforming power of love?

I am reminded of the traditional verse we will sing before our reading of the Gospel in the season of Lent: "Return to the Lord your God, for God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love." *Repentance, turn, return:* in Hebrew, all three of these words have the same root, *shuv*. Lent is a time for *turning away* from those things that can separate us from God – our busyness, our possessions, our pre-occupation with ourselves - and *turning toward* the One who is the source of mercy and abundant blessing. There are many spiritual disciplines that are available to us to help us on that journey – prayer, bible study, more frequent worship among others. They are means for deepening our awareness of God's relationship with us and preparing to celebrate the joy of new life that Easter promises to us.

May God bless you and strengthen you in your Lenten journey. –

Pastor Carol

Looking ahead to Lent

February 17, Ash Wednesday Services at St. John United, 2 PM and 7 PM

Thursday soup suppers and Lenten services at St. John United will begin Thursday February 25. Soup served 6-6:30PM, Holden Evening Prayer at 7PM Adult Choir rehearsal at 7:30 PM

Please sign-up to bring soup, and to help with set-up/clean-up. This is an important opportunity for fellowship and worship in this season of Lent. We hope YOU will plan to participate.

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY beginning **Wednesday, February 24**, at 12:30 PM in Room 217 (Board Room) We will be studying the texts for the upcoming Sunday using the "aural" method of bible study, also sometimes called African bible study method. Someone reads the text aloud; each person reflects for a minute or two on a word, phrase or image that has struck her/his attention. We go around the circle, speaking the word, phrase or image, without comment or discussion of what is said. Although all are invited to speak, no-one is required to. The text is read again, by a different voice, and we each reflect on how it touches our lives today or this week. After a few moments of reflection, we go around the circle again, sharing our thoughts; again there is no comment or discussion. The text is read a third time, by a different voice, and again we spend a few minutes reflecting on a faith-building aspect of the text. After a time of reflection and sharing around the circle again, we close with prayer.

Bible Study Online: Luther Seminary has a great site where you can read the upcoming lessons for Sunday as well as read commentary on these lessons. www.workingpreacher.org

Our Regular February Bible Study Opportunities:

Evening Women's Bible Study, February 23, 7:15 PM
(note this is the 4th Tuesday this month rather than the third Tuesday)

Men's Bible Study, Wednesday, February 24, 7 PM

Women's Fellowship Bible Study, February 25 at 11 AM at Caroline Lofgren's, studying Luke chapter 9-11

Message from our intern:

Each year during the season of Lent, Christians around the world engage in a kind of six-week retreat. Most are not able to retreat in the sense of hibernating from the world, but through midweek worship services, special fasts, and other intensified practices they turn again to Christ, accompanying him, as best they can, on his journey to the cross.

This year, as we prepare for our annual Lenten Journey, I invite you to join me in contemplating the meaning of Christ in 2010 by reading and reflecting on Dean Brackley's book *The Call to Discernment in Troubled Times: New Perspectives on the Transformative Wisdom of Ignatius of Loyola*. Dean Brackley is a Jesuit priest and professor who served in Manhattan and the Bronx before volunteering to take the place of one of six assassinated Jesuits in El Salvador in 1989. Brackley's publisher describes *The Call to Discernment* as "A Guide to Personal and Social Change" that "reintroduces the reader to Christianity as a lived experience, rather than a set of doctrines. In these times of spreading violence, poverty, and environmental crisis, this book points the reader beyond paralyzing fear to inner freedom, hope, and constructive response."

Between Ash Wednesday and Palm Sunday, we'll reflect on a series of themes, following those outlined in *The Call to Discernment*.

- Week 1: Getting Free
- Week 2: Something Worth Living For
- Week 3: Discerning and Deciding
- Week 4: Passion and Compassion
- Week 5: Resurrection
- Week 6: Worldly Prayer

It is my hope that our shared reflections on these themes might deepen the wells of grace that sustain us – over a season, over a year, over a lifetime – for our daily work in God's world. It is my hope that they might challenge us to go deeper into the world that surrounds us, with all of its pain and all of its beauty. And it is my hope that they might deepen our understanding of the mystery of Christ, and of his journey to the cross and beyond.

For those who are interested, there will be a variety of ways to connect with this collective reading and reflection. During our Thursday Lenten evening prayer services, brief reflections on the week's theme will be offered. Following the service, there will be a time to gather in the lounge to discuss the week's theme in greater depth, with readings and questions drawn from the book. We have several copies of the book available for purchase for \$15 (or you can order online or at a neighborhood book store). We will also have copies of sample chapters on the Narthex table. Finally, throughout the week I'll post daily reflections and prayers on a public blog at <http://lent2010.blogspot.com> - and you are welcome to post your own reflections and prayers there, too.

I look forward to journeying together with you throughout this holy season.

In Christ,
Intern Matt

Advocacy News

Interfaith Advocacy Day will be held in Olympia on Tuesday, February 16 from 8:30am until 3:00pm. Join people of faith from around Washington at the state capitol to bring a message of justice and peace to our elected representatives. This is a great opportunity to meet your legislators and voice your concerns! You can register online at www.lppowa.org, and if you're interested in joining a group from St. John United, please talk to Intern Matt. If you can't make it to Interfaith Advocacy Day this year, there will be opportunities to write letters to your state legislators on February 7 and February 14 that we will bring to Olympia on your behalf.

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SJU 2030

(our growing young adult group!)

After a holiday hiatus, our young adult group has resumed its **Theology on Tap** gatherings. In February, we'll gather again on February 9 and February 23 at 7pm at Hale's Ales. We'll take another field trip in February, this time to the Seattle Art Museum for FREE First Thursday on February 4 at 6pm. All twenty-and-thirtysomethings welcome! If you'd like to be added to the email list for this group, please contact Intern Matt at matt.keadle@gmail.com.

Sunday Morning Adult Forum

9:10 AM Room 217

Child care available in the Nursery

- February 7** Update on the state budget and other issues before the State Legislature with Seminary Intern Matt Keadle.
- February 14** Rev Darla DeFrance, Director of Lutheran Volunteer Corps in the Puget Sound area, will be with us to talk about their program.
- February 21&28** *How Does Worship Shape Us for A Life of Faith* - a six-week series for Lent led by Intern Matt

Ministry of the Month: Advocacy

This month we recognize and celebrate the St. John United partnership with the Lutheran Public Policy Office of Washington State (LPPO) which is expressed in a number of ways: our shared internship, Pastor Carol's chairing the LPPO Advisory Council, and probably most importantly, the number of SJU members who are participating in some way in our ministry of advocacy. Also, during this month, we recognize the other dimensions of the ELCA's advocacy ministry including the Lutheran Office of Governmental Affairs in Washington DC. The issues on which the ELCA advocates and the specific positions taken are set according to the Social Policy Statements adopted at the Churchwide Assemblies. See Intern Matt's article for more information on advocacy on page 2.

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VISIT TO TEMPLE DE HIRSCH SINAI FEBRUARY 26

Continuing a process started last year with our visit to Masjid Umar Al-Farooq, members of congregations and communities involved in the Interfaith Thanksgiving Service are invited to attend Shabbat (Sabbath) Evening Service at Temple De Hirsch Sinai, 1441 16th Avenue, between E. Pike and E. Union on Friday evening, February 26.

The schedule for Friday evening is that people gather at Temple De Hirsch Sinai at 7:00 p.m when Light Refreshments will be served. The Shabbat Service begins at 7:30 p.m and lasts approximately one hour. Following the Service Rabbi Daniel Septimus has offered to meet with all of us visitors to speak briefly about the Service and to answer questions. Tell Pastor Carol or Intern Matt if you plan to attend. We will meet in the SJU parking lot at 6:20PM.

Thank You from Lutheran World Relief

With each day, we are making progress in Haiti. LWR is working with Christian Aid to provide food, tents, hygiene kits, blankets and water. And we are working with Lutheran World Federation to provide water in Port-au-Prince and underserved regions outside of the city.

These efforts are possible because of your support. I am amazed by the outpouring of love and generosity of our friends and partners. Even those who otherwise might not have much to give are finding ways to help the people of Haiti.

I would like to extend my deepest gratitude and share one of these stories with you at my blog at lwr.org/blog.

Thank you for extending Christ's love to the people who are hurting in Haiti.

Compass Housing Alliance (formerly Lutheran Alliance To Create Housing and The Compass Center)

Present:

The 1st Annual Auction ~There's No Place Like Home~ March 20, 2010

Compass Housing Alliance is pleased to announce the 2010 Auction Dinner & Gala: *There's No Place Like Home*. LATCH & The Compass Center's combined auction gala will take place on Saturday, March 20, 2010 at the Seattle Waterfront Marriott. Tickets are \$125. We have filled one SJU table and would love to have another. If you are interested in attending please speak to Meridee Johansen or Jan Chalupny (chalupnj@amgen.com). We anticipate this year's auction to be even bigger and better with the combined forces of our Lutheran community.

We would also welcome auction donations and/or help with procurement. If you wish to help in this manner, please talk to Jan Chalupny or Meridee Johansen.

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Fabric Fantasy Sewing Circle

The women of Fabric Fantasy, our SJU Sewing Circle for World Missions is greatly in need of donations of fabric to continue their projects. As you start spring cleaning please keep the group in mind for quilting materials and book bags. The group is also in need of help in cutting fabric and assembling quilt tops. If you have some spare time to donate and prefer to take part of a project home to work at your convenience please let them know! Everyone is always welcome on Tuesday mornings in the fellowship Hall between 10 AM and 12 noon. If you care to brown bag your lunch, you are sure to enjoy good company for a coffee break at the end of the work party. Please consider joining the women as their ranks are dwindling. More helping hands will make the work lighter and more enjoyable.

*In Christ,
John A. Nunes
President and CEO
Lutheran World Relief*



News From the Homefront and Around Our Parish

As you return from travels and host relatives and visitors, please remember to share your news with us.

Jan Chalupny and Betty Edwards are the contact people for contributions to News from the HomeFront!

Jan's email address is: chalupnj@amgen.com

Betty's phone: 206-282-8674

Pat Christensen, wife of former St. Paul's Pastor Dick Christensen, was diagnosed with breast cancer last summer and has recently been placed under hospice care in their home in Bellingham. Please keep them in your prayers.

Chuck Woodhead, former member of St. Paul's, passed away Christmas morning. He is survived by his wife Betty, son Charles Jr. (Nga), son Thomas (Susan), grandson Chau and two great-granddaughters, Phai and Silver Marie.

Mark Calvert, former SJU member and son of Iola Calvert, sends greetings to the congregation. He now lives in Battleground, WA where he now is a deacon at the Lutheran church. He works for the Battleground School District as a Teacher's Aide.

Five SJU young people received their first communion on January 31: Marc and Eric Tenneson, Megan and Ella Knoernschild, and Natalie Spencer.

Please remember in your prayers . . .

Francis Baker (lung complications) Andy Hall (recovering at home from fractured pelvis) Sonja Kjaer (at Columbia Lutheran Home) Oda Sorensen (moved to skilled care unit for declining health) Una Chalupny (fractured wrist from fall, mother of Jan) Willy Freeman (alzheimer's, father of Kris) Winnie Hinkelman (Parkinson's, mother of Anne Johnson) Sharon Kahan (progression of M.S., foreign exchange student/daughter of Jan Olson) Henry Minkema (complications w/prostrate surgery and cancer, brother of Anne Harrison)

Ron & Mary Latham (health concerns & complications) Alan Baker (difficulty walking from Warnekes Syndrome) Larry & Judy Meyer (prayers of support for Larry's cancer, daughter of Ruth Sundseth) Tony (recalled to Iraq, nephew of Nancy Wanwig) Vi & Harold Wille (prayers of support) Meridee Johansen (outreach & social support) Marie Stephens (health complications) Joe Allen (health issues, brother of Diane Thomas) Beth Shannon (aging aunt of Verna Rossevelt) Lisa Becker (brain tumor, stepsister of Joe Marsh) Malkandi Family (Sam, Mali, Nicole, Arvin - former LATCH family facing immigration problems) Brad Olson (heart issues and health concerns) Jennifer Tanner (colon cancer, friend of Olsons, Purcells, Chalupny-Lees) Amy Eastman (cancer, cousin of Susan Washington) Ryan Schroeder (in a coma from snowmobile accident, friend of Linda Hedlund's family) Caroline Lofgren (health issues)

Family of Gracie (passed away earlier this month, cousin of Nancy Wanwig)

Family of Chuck Woodhead (passed away in December)

Family of Carrie Harmon (passed away in December)

Church Council Elects Officers

The Council elected the following officers to serve for the coming year:

Dave Favour, President

Jan Olson, Vice President

Roger Tapp, Secretary

Bonnie Olson, Financial Secretary

Report on the Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the congregation was held January 31 after a delicious potluck. The congregation approved a general fund budget of \$265,844 in projected expenses and \$265,990 in projected income. Also approved was a Mission Endowment Fund distribution of \$30,000 with \$20,000 for mission through St. John United and \$10,000 for mission through other organizations. Carolyn Lee and Roger Tapp were elected to the serve as Synod Assembly voting members. Representative to various organizations were approved: Pastor John Recher, Hearthstone; Meridee Johansen, Columbia Lutheran; and Jodie Purcell, Church Council of Greater Seattle. Elected to the Nominating Committee were Anne Johnson, Don Edwards, Becky Drees, Joe Marsh, John Klasell and Jodie Purcell. The Mission Endowment Fund Resolution was amended to change the year-end from December 31 to September 30 so that the plan for distributions can be developed for the January congregational meeting, as per the resolution. If you didn't get a copy of the Annual Report for 2009 they are available on the Narthex Table or you may call the SJU office and have one sent to you.

Financial Report

Month of December 2009

Income	\$ 25,889
Expenses	\$ 23,062

Year-to-date (through December 31, 2009)

Expenses	\$ 267,050
Income	\$ 250,671
2008 CarryOver	+ \$8,279

While we narrowed our budget deficit somewhat during December, we finished 2009 with a net loss of \$5,700. For now, we are carrying this on the books, hoping that those who are able may make a special gift designated for the 2009 deficit. Because we have sufficient amounts of cash in our special funds, we have been able to pay all our bills. The council will report back to the congregation about progress in reducing the deficit.

Men's Ministry

Men's Breakfast on Saturday, February 13 at 8 AM. We'll catch up on the month's events and then continue reading and discussing chapters from Michael Chabon's *Manhood for Amateurs*. This month's chapters are "The Story of our Story" and "The Amateur Family." If you need copies of the readings, please talk to Intern Matt.

St. John United's Community Garden Workparty

9:00am-Noon, Saturday, February 13

Did someone say party? Yes! Just wait until you see the garden committee in a groove. All are welcome to join us.



LET'S GO TO HOLDEN VILLAGE!

This summer Ron Young will be teaching at Holden Village for two weeks from July 10 through July 24 and Pastor Carol will also be there for part of that time. Also, the Chalupny/Lee family is signed up for June 26 to July 10th. You can sign up as an individual or family for any amount of time – from a day to a week (or more). Please let Pastor Carol know your dates or post them on the sheet on the upstairs hall bulletin board so we can see who is going and when. The Holden website is <http://www.holdenvillage.org>.

SJU Common Book:

After a number of SJU folk attended the December lecture by Greg Mortenson, author of *Three Cups of Tea* (which quite a few of you have read), we decided we wanted to read his new book, *Stones Into Schools*, as our next "common" SJU book. We will be scheduling a time for discussion in March. Speaking of books, our very own Bill Purcell, associate professor of communications at Seattle Pacific University, recently published *The Rhetorical Short Story: Best American Short Stories on War and the Military, 1915-2006*. This book examines over ninety short stories as rhetorical artifacts of nearly a century of American history, from the early days of the Great War to the ongoing conflict in Iraq and Afghanistan. We hope to schedule a time when Bill can talk with us about his book.

Youth & Family



Sunday School

Susan Washington is teaching our younger class (Witness curriculum) and Laura VanDerPloeg the older class (using Greg Mortenson's *3 Cups of Tea*) Sunday School begins promptly at 9:40 AM in the Fellowship Hall.

Musical Theatre Opportunity

Carly Lee will be performing as one of the princesses-in-waiting in the St John School Middle School Musical, 'Once Upon a Mattress' (the story of the Princess and the Pea). Performances will be Thursday, March 4 at 7pm, Saturday, March 6 at 7pm and Sunday, March 7 at 2pm. Tickets will be available in February. If you are interested in attending please talk to Carly Lee or to one of her parents.

LYONS (Lutheran Youth of North Seattle)

Our church participates in a youth program involving nine Lutheran churches in North Seattle, known as LYONS. The LYONS office is located at Crown Lutheran Church, 1501 NW 90th Street.

The current events as well as the newsletter are now on the website at www.roaringlyons.org

To contact the LYONS staff, you can email roaringlyons@earthlink.net

or call the office at 206-706-5997

Scholarship Info: LYONS believes in quality programming. All activities should be available to everyone. Please do not let cost prohibit you from participating in an event. Scholarship funds are available. Participants (or their parents) who wish to acquire a scholarship may speak to Pr. Julie. *All scholarship information is confidential.*

February Events

February 5, 8pm-8am "Girls Just Want To Have Fun" Overnight! It's awesome to be a girl and we invite all LYONS middle school girls to come over for an overnight celebration of all that makes us girls fabulous! There will be movies, games, and lots of great conversation, or should we say "girl talk". You must sign up ahead of time!

Sign up deadline is February 2nd!

Location: LYONS Den (1501 NW 90th St) Cost: Free

February 26, 8pm-8am "Boys Will Be Boys" Overnight! Alright gentlemen, now its your turn! An overnight just for you! We invite all LYONS middle school boys to a night filled with things that make us boys rock! Games, movies, conversation, and awesomeness! Be there! You must sign up ahead of time! Sign up deadline is February 19th!

Location: LYONS Den (1501 NW 90th St) Cost: Free

Coffee Hour after worship is a great time for visiting with old friends and for meeting new people. Our Coffee Hours **depend** on our members bringing goodies and helping set up, serve and clean up. We divide up the weeks according to the first letter of your last name, as indicated below. Please talk to one of the "old hands" (so to speak) in your group to learn the drill for set up and clean up. A BIG THANKS TO ALL WHO HELP AND CONTRIBUTE.

Most Sundays L-R and S-Z have only 2 people to handle the set-up and clean-up. Help is needed.

Coffee Hour Hosting Schedule The first Sunday of every month will be allotted to the initials A-G.

The second Sunday: H-K,

The third Sunday: L-R,

The fourth Sunday: S-Z.

Any month having 5 Sundays, the fifth Sunday will be hosted by the Sunday School Students, parents and teachers.



Messiah

Sing/Play Along
EASTER portion

Sunday, March 28th, 2010

at 6:30 PM

St. John United Lutheran Church
5515 Phinney Ave. North

A benefit for
SHARE/WHEEL
sponsoring shelters for
homeless men and women
in the Seattle area

No admission charge
Freewill donations will be given to
SHARE/Wheel

February Birthdays

11 Ruth Sundseth
17 Janet Recher
18 Francis Baker
22 Anna Falck
26 Betty Thompson
28 Mary Latham



February Worship Assistants



Ushers

February: Joe Marsh & Verna Rossevelt
March: Ed Hedlund & John Klasell

Lector

7th Edie Boettcher
14th J.D. Klingman
21st Jodie Purcell
28th Edie Boettcher
Mar 7th Gloria Ratcliffe

Communion Assistants

7th Arlys Pederson
14th Janet Recher
21st Linda Lillevik
28th Bill Purcell
Mar 7th Jan Olson

Counters

7th & 14th Brad & Bonnie Olson
21st & 28th Kevin Tapp & Jan Olson
March Ed and Linda Hedlund

Nursery

Katie Lee, Leeza Olson,
Esther Purcell, Anna Robaidek

Altar Guild

TBA

Have we missed your birthday or spelled your name wrong?

Do we have your correct address?

Do you have a name for the prayer list?

Please call Laura in the office at 206-784-1040
or email: office @stjohnunited.org