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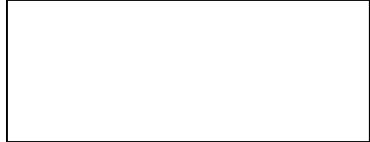


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Lutheran Church of the  
**REFORMATION**

## HERE AND NOW

Volume LI August 1, 2010 #8



### August

- 4 Jean D Lokenye
- 11 Margery Strom
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- 20 Don Luther
- 23 Roy Fredin

### OUR PEOPLE

THANK YOU to:

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**Please Welcome**

Karin Swanson, our new 'interim' Office Administrator. Karin, daughter of DeLoris Swanson, has joined us after retiring from Target where she worked for 38 years. Karin is married to John Barber; and has two children—Christopher and Katie.

Welcome Karin!

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**We Pray: For health and well-being:** Jean Quist; Gloria Olson; Carol Drake's son-in-law, Jeff; Nancy Lund's brother, Ken; Eleanor Hunsberger's grandson, Jahhee and family; Dorothy Falde.

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*The LCR prayer list has been updated for 2010. If you feel you would like to have the congregation praying for you or your family, phone the church office at 952.929.0439.*

### Next

### Intergenerational Event

### August 8—Highlights

### “Kids’ Crops”

Our next intergenerational, all-congregational educational event, will be held Sunday, August 8, following worship and focus on ‘Kids’ Crops,’ LCR’s children’s gardening program. Gardening kids (and their families) will show what they have grown and demonstrate what they have learned in the garden. They will show the ‘Stone Compass’ they have put together, explain the traditional Native American “three sisters” approach to planting corn, beans, and squash together, and show their Indian planting sticks they have made. Please mark your calendar for this learning event!

**Sunday Worship at LCR will continue at 10:00 am throughout the summer months.**



**Sometimes** life captures our attention so completely all we can do is gasp in wonder. Twenty years ago, our son, Noah, and I were canoeing up one of the ‘narrows’ off Kabekona Lake when suddenly we saw a green heron. Forget anything you see on the best HD television or on the sharpest Ipad. The vivid life emanating from that heron in its natural habitat stopped our paddling and quieted our breathing for minutes.

As I write, I am enjoying the “lounge” at Inver Grove Honda, where our car is being serviced. And it is quite a lounge: six laptop stations, a breakfast bar with coffee-on-demand, comfortable chairs, and a fully-equipped nursery for children. This last feature must be appreciated by the mother of four children, ranging from 2 1/2 to 8, who seems to be having a ‘crowd control’ problem. But what is at the core of the problem is that the kids do NOT want to watch the provided DVD’s or play with the Honda-approved toys; they cannot stay away from the large aquarium near the breakfast bar. They are overthrowing ‘electronic paradise’ for the real thing. They know what real interest and beauty are; they will not be fooled.

Too often we adults seem to have been ‘fooled’ by the ersatz nature of our screens, the lies of advertisers and politicians, and the lure of ‘entertainment’. That could not contrast more with our call as God’s people to embrace integrity, honesty, and durability (Philippians 4.8). Rooted in the Word becoming flesh in Jesus the Christ, the crucified and risen one, we look for beauty, insight, and hope from the very center of life, not the world’s sideshow vendors. Like the kids at the car dealership, let’s demand what is genuine.

*Pastor Tom*

**LCR Worship Attendance**

6/27	27	7/18	25
7/4	18	7/25	31
7/11	31		

Average: 26

## NEWS & EVENTS

### Coming up in September!

LCR will begin our fall schedule by celebrating our partnership in ministry with Megan Boren of Circle of Empowerment in Nicaragua. Megan will be our preacher for our September 12 Fall Kickoff and make a presentation following our Fall Harvest Brunch!

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**Health Fair**—for the St. Louis Park area will be held on August 18<sup>th</sup>, from 12:30 to 2:30 PM at the Lenox Community Center at 6715 Minnetonka Blvd.

The following are just a sampling of the organizations that will have representatives at the Health Fair to provide information and answer questions: Alzheimer's Society, Sojourner Project, Hopkins Wellness Clinic, Park Nicollet Sleep Disorders, SLP Gentle Transitions, STEP, and Children's Dental Services. Save the date and plan on joining us for this event.

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**Affirmation of Welcome**—We celebrate the approval at Lutheran Church of the Reformation, St. Louis Park, MN, of our Affirmation of Welcome as a step toward our deepening of our welcome of GLBT persons. Following a month-long educational process with weekly forums, this Affirmation is done not only to open our doors more widely, but to join with the other congregations of Reconciling in Christ. We look forward to continuing to work together in new ways as we grow in Christ's welcome to all.

**Kids' Crops Update** – The Kids' Crops gang is going strong! The group of ten kids have been working on their three gardens every Wednesday at 4 pm. Our corn is exceeding the pun "knee high by the 4th of July", as our corn is taller than some of our farmers. We invite all to stop by or talk with Anne Mundahl about participating.

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### **Picnic Operetta "Sings" in the Birchwood Gardens August 28**

Once again the Mixed Precipitation Theater will present a comic operetta with delicious food in the Birchwood Gardens. On Saturday, August 28, they will present their 'version' of "Tales of Hoffman". As you know, this is far from 'grand opera', and features wonderful snacks prepared by a well-known local chef every 20 minutes. While Mixed Precipitation has not settled the time of the performance, it was done at 4 p.m. last year. Watch the bulletin and website for more details.

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**LCR has been a Care of Creation leader for many years.** Birchwood Community Gardens, the forest, and the prairie have shown our leadership. Now we have an opportunity to reflect on the 'carbon footprint' that we make in another way—by becoming a "Zero Waste" Congregation. That is, let's explore ways together to eliminate what cannot be reused or recycled from our church life. Not only can we recycle paper products, we can move toward elimination of paper cups and plates, etc. What else can we do? Your ideas and help are important in this process. Thanks from your Stewardship of Creation, Property, and Hospitality Committee.

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**STEP (St. Louis Park Emergency Program) has moved! STEP's new location is: 6812 W. Lake St., St. Louis Park.**

The phone number remains the same: 952-925-4899.

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**West Metro Grief Support Coalition** invites all persons experiencing grief due to a death. Grief support groups offer hope and healing through education, listening, sharing, prayer and fellowship. Meetings take place 4:30-6:30 pm, July 6, 2010—September 21, 2010 at Good Shepherd Catholic Church, 145 Jersey Ave. S., Golden Valley, MN. Visit their website at [www.goodshepherdgv.org](http://www.goodshepherdgv.org) or phone 763-544-0416.

The schedule for July is—

Aug 3	Elizabeth Johnson	Poems of Loss and Renewal
Aug 10	Lois Untinen	Personal Story
Aug 17	Lois Wilder	Journaling through Grief
Aug 24	Lynn Baskerfield, MA	Creativity & Grief

For more information, please call the coalition coordinator, Darcie Rodman at 763.546.4404 or find us online at [www.westmetrogriefsupportcoalition.org](http://www.westmetrogriefsupportcoalition.org).