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HERE AND NOW



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OUR PEOPLE

A Heartfelt Thank you to our Reformation family for your expressions of sympathy at the death of my father, Virgil Engelke. Your beautiful cards, kind words, embraces and lifting up prayers for us all meant so much.

Marilyn and Ray Anderson

Upper Room invites the congregation of LCR to join their staff for an Appreciation Brunch on Sunday, February 21, in the Commons 11:15 am following worship.

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

Film on St. John's Bible

Following worship on Sunday, February 7, we will show a film on the making of the St. John's Bible, the first hand-written Bible for 500 years. You will be amazed at the process, the decision to do something like this in the age of computers, and the beauty of the result. To show the film to its best advantage, we will serve snacks, juice, and coffee in the sanctuary that day.

February Lenten Worship Schedule:

February 17, Ash Wednesday, at LCR, 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary.

February 24, 6:00 pm Soup Supper

7:00 pm Community Lenten Worship

Spirit of Christ Community Lutheran Church

5801 Minnetonka Blvd., SLP

Together with Spirit of Christ (formerly First Lutheran) and Wooddale Lutheran Church, each Lenten Wednesday we will focus on stories of God's love for creation and humankind.

Haiti Earthquake Relief, How you can help -

Check or money orders sent to:

ELCA Disaster Response

39330 Treasury Center,

Chicago, Illinois 60694-9300

Credit Card by phone: 1-800-638-3522;

On-line at: www.ELCA.org/haitiearthquake

"Gifts to ELCA International Disaster Response help to provide immediate and effective support to communities which are in need." "100% of your gift will be used in full to bring life sustaining support to this crisis."



Last night, I attended a 'Candidates' Forum' at Macalester College, where 2010 candidates for governor wrestled with issues of transportation facing Minnesota in the next two decades. Ten candidates crowded the stage and were each given an opportunity to respond to the same question. As you can guess, each round took a considerable amount of time—even though each response was limited to one minute.

As we listened to these responses, I learned something about what is interesting to hear and what might be guaranteed to "plug" audio circuitry. One candidate insisted on talking about 'his book' that had answered all the questions that might come up. No need to listen to him! Another very good candidate insisted on listed at least 'three points' every time his turn came around. Now it is no surprise –given his speaking style—that this is the son of a prominent Lutheran pastor and theologian. But this became deadly all too soon.

But there were two speakers who not only answered the question asked, but were able to do it with a combination of information, legislative experience, and **story**. And it seemed that this story which brought these threads together made for the most interesting listening. The rest of the candidates made it to easy to 'tune out.'

This should have been no surprise. As we move toward Lent (beginning with Ash Wednesday, February 17), we have an unsurpassed opportunity to focus on the **stories** of God's love for creation and humankind. No, the forty days of Lent are not 'one long betrayal, trial, and crucifixion slog' as Mel Gibson's awful "The Passion of the Christ" would have us think. Instead, Lent is a time to prepare for baptism, or, just in case we have no baptismal candidates, a time to renew the foundations of faith. We do this by listening to the most powerful stories of faith and reflect on how they relate to the stories of our life.

This "story emphasis" will be the special focus of the Wednesday Lenten services we will share with Wooddale Lutheran Church and Spirit of Christ Community Lutheran beginning 7 p.m., February 24, at Spirit of Christ (formerly First Lutheran) following a 6 p.m. soup supper. Please come as we share our stories, stories that are all rooted in the story of God's Kingdom!

Pastor Tom

Notes from the Treasurer

This is how we look financially through December 2009

	2009 Budget	December Exp/Inc	Year to Date	% Budget
Total Expense	161,155	12,164.47	144,466.98	89.6%
Total Income	125,466	22,284.28	136,228.20	108.6%
Surplus (Deficit)	(35,689)	10,119.81	(8,238.78)	23.1%

LCR Worship Attendance

12/24	61	1/3	45
12/27	38	1/10	41
		1/17	36
Average: 44			

Peace Coffee—A reminder that we are serving and selling Peace Coffee. Our coffee comes from Nicaragua and is organically shade grown and fairly traded. No pesticides or fertilizers are used, and no rain forests are cut down to be replaced by coffee plants. This means that coffee beans take longer to mature and ripen, increasing flavor. Also, coffee is sustainably grown, leaving habitat for humans, birds and other wildlife. You can read more at our coffee display table in the Commons. Ground Nicaraguan and Decaf dark roast are available. The list is on the table. Whole bean coffee and other flavors may be ordered through me at 612-374-5847. Nancy Lund

A Wednesday morning Bible Study focused on the Gospel, meets weekly in the Westwood Room at Westwood Lutheran Church (9001 Cedar Lake Rd. St. Louis Park) from 10 -11 a.m. This study is for all interested in deepening faith through encountering the Bible. Pastor Tom is the study leader.

Luther Park Summer Programs, Schedule, & Registration brochure is now available. For information & registration, go online at www.lutherpark.com or pick up a brochure on LCR's information tables. Additional information is available by phone at 715-656-7244 or email anna@lutherpark.com.

“What the Census Means to our Community” will be presented by Terra Cole, Hennepin County 2010 Census. Terra will also address “how you can encourage the participation of the harder-to-reach population in St. Louis Park”. This event is sponsored by the League of Women Voters, St. Louis Park and will be held on Thursday, February 18, 7 pm to 8:30 pm at the St. Louis Park City Hall Community Room, lower level, 5005 Minnetonka Blvd., St. Louis Park. *They are looking for a leader of each congregation/organization to attend.* Contact Barb at 952-546-3490 with questions.

“Evening of Music” Concert To Benefit STEP – Oh What a Night!

A special thank you to the congregations that sponsored the evening of music. WOW!

It was an inspiring evening with amazing performances and such a wonderful variety of music. (It was an honor to be there with you.) We estimate that 250 people attended (in spite of the poor weather) and raised \$3600.00 for STEP (the St Louis Park Emergency Program and food shelf)! Thank you to the folks that organized and spread the word, the musicians that performed, the volunteers that greeted guests, those that provided and served refreshments and folks that attended and gave generously. Your efforts helped make the evening a success for STEP and for our community.

If you were unable to attend, (or would like to see it again!) you will soon be able to view the “Evening of Music” concert on ParkTV (cable TV) Channel 16 or on its website:

www.stlouispark.org/video_on_demand.htm#216 Nancy Ebner (EOM Coordinator) Aldersgate UMC

IGiving to STEP just got easier! To make an online gift to STEP with your credit card at any time, go to: <http://givemn.razoo.com/story/Step-St-Louis-Park-Emergency-Program>

(no credit card fees) --100% of your tax-deductible donation will go to STEP and you can also arrange an on-going gift to STEP. Questions? Contact Jackie or Kate at 952-925-4899.