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## HERE AND NOW

Volume LI May 1, 2010 #5



### May

- 2 Carolyn Hagford
- 5 Leroy Pietz
- 9 Emma Wilhelm
- 11 Bev Nilsson  
Oscar Anderson
- 13 Frank Lokenye
- 16 Joe Lokenye
- 18 Brian Anderson
- 23 Marilyn Anderson
- 24 Jillian Baenen  
Riley Baenen

### OUR PEOPLE

#### Easter Sunday we welcomed these people into membership -

Alexander J. Togba, Ayodele Orebanjo, Peachu Yates, Shermelia Yates, Tarlee Amanda Deanch by Affirmation of Faith and Jakob Tyler Anderhagen by Baptism.

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**THANK YOU** to Stu Ekstrand for the bird-house building event and to Pat Olson for providing the cedar wood.

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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; Joyce Krogh; 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.**

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

### KIDS' CROPS

#### *Gardening Club in St. Louis Park-Begins May 5!*

**Who:** Kids of all ages ready to get their hands dirty! (Under 5 welcome with parent supervision/involvement.)

Teens or adults passionate about gardening, eating locally and living sustainably, and passing on those values to the next generation.

**What:** Grow vegetables to cook, eat and share while having FUN! Meet new friends and learn about earth-friendly gardening.

**Where:** Birchwood Community Gardens in St. Louis Park's Birchwood Neighborhood ( on the back property of Lutheran Church of the Reformation at 2544 S. Hwy. 100).

**Why:** Strengthen your connection to the earth and your community by growing food with others passionate about gardening, eating locally and living sustainably.

**When:** Wednesdays, 4 pm, throughout the 2010 growing season, beginning May 5.

**Fee:** \$15 for the season. No one will be turned away due to inability to pay.

**More Info or to Sign-up:** Call Church Office: 952.929.0439 or Danielle Fehring 952.546.1878.

**Enroll Now thru May 31—both Kids and Mentors!**



**Have you ever noticed how 'freeing' disasters can be?**

Both times in my life when I have joined neighbors in Little Falls sandbagging alongside the Mississippi, I have seen an elation and community spirit that had never before been noticeable in my home town. Those who have spent time in New Orleans following Hurricane Katrina have noticed the same thing –even among residents of the Ninth Ward, those hit hardest. Surprisingly, this has also been observed and studied by social scientists during the bombing of London and Frankfurt during WW II and similar campaigns over North Vietnam in the late 60's and early 70's.

Excepting those who have suffered the tragic loss of loved ones during these events, how can this be? Why this amazing spirit in the face of violence –natural and military? The “father” of sociological studies of disaster, Charles Fritz, provides two reasons. First, far from being disoriented by having daily routines taken away, he found that most people have no great love for a good share of this routine –especially work life. Work life was, in some sense, already a ‘disaster’ that many were glad to abandon for a time. Then, the widespread sharing of work that is clearly and absolutely necessary, like sandbagging or helping fellow citizens threatened by bombing, provides a sense of community that is almost entirely lacking with the rampant individualism of modern life. What we do together can only be done **together** –and it counts!

What can God’s people learn from this paradoxical liveliness that comes from disaster? First, we see that this only happens in the face of threats that make choice of action crystal clear. Without question we will sandbag in the face of flooding and dig for survivors when earthquakes or fire occurs. Is this not the result our joint worship in the face of a culture that says –only you and your needs are important: *satisfy them first*. What a contrast with the communities formed from meeting real need!

Because we are citizens of the New Creation, we are the community called to lead in the response to hydrocarbon pollution leading to climate change and effects it is already producing. For years, India and Bangladesh were in conflict over a small, but desirable island in the Bay of Bengal. Now, that the island is mostly under water; conflict is no more. On the other hand, with the shrinking of glaciers in the Himalayan chain of mountains, the hydrological cycle that provides water for 2 billion people is clearly at risk.

But how can we respond to what seems like such a distant disaster – even though it is happening? When the Risen One told stories about our relations with others such as the parable of the ‘Good Samaritan,’ he pulled an amazing reversal on the ‘lawyer’ who asked him what was necessary to inherit eternal life. This ‘lawyer’ wanted to know “who is my neighbor,” but at the end of the parable Jesus asks, “Which of these three **acted as neighbor**” to the victim? The answer clearly is that it was the ‘Good Samaritan.’ (Luke 10) This parable frees us to “neighbor” with those in need everywhere. As Dostoevsky says, “Each is responsible for all.” May the Spirit grant us the imagination and insight to see that there are no longer 'local' disasters. They all are ours – and opportunities for service, growth in community, and learning what is really important.

*Pastor Tom*

**Notes from the Treasurer**

This is how we look financially through March 2010

	2010 Budget	March Exp/Inc	Year to Date	% Budget
Total Expense	160,493.80	11,520.81	36,701.84	23%
Total Income	120,466.00	10,986.49	32,000.70	27%
Surplus (Deficit)	(40,007.80)	(534.32)	(4,701.14)	12%

**LCR Worship Attendance**

3/28	39	4/4	64
4/1	24	4/11	28
4/2	28	4/18	33
Average: 36			

**The Living Green Expo** will be held on Saturday, May 1 (10 am-6 pm) & Sunday, May 2 (10 am-5 pm) at the MN State Fairgrounds. There will be over 250 exhibits, demonstrations, and seminars on topics i.e. eco transport, outdoor living, green remodeling all from experts in living green. For more information see the brochure on the Narthex table or go to [www.livinggreenexpo.mn](http://www.livinggreenexpo.mn).

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**“A Gathering of Grandparents: Explore Your Vocation”** This conference is for all who are grandparents, grandparent-wanna-bees, and “faith grandparents,” all of us Christian adults “of a certain age” who are called by God to nurture faith for children in the congregation and community. Keynote speaker is Marilyn Sharpe, grandparent, parent, faith and parent educator. Thursday, May 6, 8 am-12:15 pm at Augustana Lutheran Church, (1400 S. Robert St., West St. Paul) Cost: \$15, includes breakfast. See poster on bulletin board or call 651.632.5330 for more information.

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***Collaboration Toolkit: How Congregations Can Work Together for Mission -***

On Saturday, May 8, from 9 am—2 pm the Minneapolis Area Synod will host a workshop on “Church Collaboration” at Bethel Lutheran Church, East 42<sup>nd</sup> Street & 17th Ave S, Minneapolis. Following a keynote opening by Rev. Jerry Wahl of the Florida Synod, workshops will focus on collaboration that includes –sharing church space, working with new emigrant groups, suburban-urban partnerships. Among the featured partnerships will be the LCR-Upper Room collaboration.

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**Groceries at half the cost - Fare For All** is a food distribution that happens every 4 weeks in St. Louis Park. It’s open to everyone and anyone– no income guidelines or geographic restrictions. Packs of produce and meat are available and the more people that use it the better the deals. This is a great way to support those in the community who really need the help by using your purchasing power to get all of us better deals. The next Fare For All food distribution is Tuesday, March 30th from 4-6 pm at Lenox Community Center. For more information go to: [www.STEPslp.org/fareforall](http://www.STEPslp.org/fareforall).

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**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 Nancy Lund at 612-374-5847.

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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, April 6-June 22, 2010 at Aldersgate United Methodist Church, 3801 Wooddale Ave., St. Louis Park, MN. Visit their website at [www.aldersgatemn.com](http://www.aldersgatemn.com) or phone 952.929.6725.

The schedule for May is—

May 4	Anna Lee, MT-BC	Music in Grief Expression
May 11	Jan Stanton, MA	Tips for Coping with Grief
May 18	Grace Wagnild	Self Care & Mindful Meditation
May 25	Don Rada	Regaining Hope in Your Life

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).